

# Pathway of Faith



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Ardrossan, Alberta

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# Pathway of Faith

*A History of St. John's Lutheran Church, Ardrossan, Alberta*

Lift your drooping hands, strengthen your weak knees and make a straight path for your feet. Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith . . . Hebrews 12

“Der Glaube ist eine feste Zuversicht auf das was man hofft, und ein Nichtzweifeln an dem was man nicht sieht.” Hebräer 11:1

“ . . . auf Jesus sehen, den Begründer und Vollender des Glaubens.” Hebräer 12:2

St. John's Lutheran Church  
52233 Range Road #221  
Sherwood Park, Alberta Canada  
T8E 1C9

(Printed by Jostens/Publications, Winnipeg, Manitoba)  
Adalbert Missal, Editor

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# Dedication

- \* To the Pioneer Members of St. John's Lutheran Church -- Ardrossan
- \* To the many councillors, teachers and leaders who left a legacy of loving service
- \* To those motivated by the Spirit of God, followers of Jesus and brothers and sisters of Martin Luther, Moses and Abraham
- \* To all who believe in the triumph of life and love over evil and death -- this book of history is gratefully dedicated.

A.M.

January, 1986

Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen\*

\*(#251, Lutheran Book of Worship, Pg 153)



---

# Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift ev'ry voice and sing, 'till earth and heaven ring  
Ring with the harmonies of liberty  
Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun  
Let us march on, till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died  
Yet, with a steady beat, have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our parents sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered  
We have come, treading our path through the blood  
of the slaughtered  
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears  
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee  
Lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee  
Shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand  
True to our God, true to our native land.

Lutheran Book of Worship #562, James W.  
Johnson, 1871-1938

## **ON THE NATURE OF FAITH: MARTIN LUTHER**

Faith is a sure confidence of the heart and a firm  
assent . . .

Faith is the yes of the heart, a conviction on which  
one stakes one's life.

Faith can see in the dark, where nothing whatever  
is visible; it feels where nothing is to be felt.

It is the nature of faith to deal with possessions  
which it neither sees nor feels but handles just as if  
they were present, though it has no other assurance  
than the knowledge that God neither lies nor deceives . . .

---



## FOREWARD

The writing of a local history may not be an earth shattering event but it can cause many an upheaval in the lives of the committee responsible - from the endless meetings, to the writing, editing, typing and correcting. The primary purpose of these histories is to get the stories and memories down on paper before the leading players have left the "stage, or taken different pathways." The congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church felt that something special should be done to commemorate an important milestone like the church's fiftieth anniversary. A working committee was established on February 18, 1983. Three years seemed like ample time to produce a book of this type since the editor and writers were "only" correcting and the words written by the members.

One of the biggest problems we encountered, next to convincing people their stories were interesting enough to write down, was checking on facts and figures supplied by often fallible memories of parents and grandparents. When relying totally on recall too many variables can affect and reduce the value of the finished product. Where discrepancies were found they have been noted as such. Anyone using this book for research will find that the dates mentioned can be verified from records, presently kept in church files.

One of the main benefits this book will have is that our children and grandchildren will have a better idea of lifestyle and conditions the generations before them faced in this district, and a greater knowledge of some of the problems and pitfalls that were overcome in building of a successful congregation. We are well aware that mistakes were made and these were recorded along with the triumphs. Sometimes every path gets bumpy or has too many turns. There is a lot of history that committee members were not aware of, or had forgotten before tackling this project.

The most important thing this book does is to draw attention to the background and origins of our members. The pioneers felt a strong need for religious guidance even when they were still in the process of becoming settled. Each of the pastors of St. John's left his personal imprint on the Congregation and the directions it took.

A.M.



## A MESSAGE:

Faith is a broader perspective than some people make it out to be. Faith is the antithesis of despair, the attitude and power within that does not let one lie down and simply die. Faith is the vision that sees a better world and puts its life on the line to reach that world. The writer of Hebrew is eloquent on the subject.

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen, whether it be a new land in another hemisphere or heaven after death; an inhabitable planet in another galaxy or the ultimate meaning of human existence.

By faith we understand that the world did not just happen by accident, but that it was created by God. By faith many worship the Creator though they may not know much about him.

The alternative to faith would seem to be fear. In fear Cain committed murder; by faith Abel worshipped his Creator.

By faith Noah became a sailor. By faith Abraham went West. By faith Sarah, already in old age, bore a child. By faith Moses became a liberation theologian and a freedom warrior. By faith Jesus proclaimed a higher order of things -- the Kingdom of heaven. He died to bring it about, and lives.

By faith Martin Luther stood in stagnant times to proclaim the fresh gospel of grace and freedom.

By faith many pioneers of the Ardrossan community left a constricted and war-ravaged Europe to come to the new land of Canada. By faith some set up an altar on arrival to worship the God of their redemption.

By faith the St. John's Lutheran Congregation was organized and familiar rituals of baptism, confirmation, marriage and funeral come to be practised on a fresh patch of soil.

In faith many died not having received what was promised, but having greeted it from afar.

Genuine faith has never been a broad and easy way. Classic images of its difficulties give goose bumps even to our generation:

While some through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fires, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, others endured mocking and scourging, chains and imprisonment; they were stoned, sawn in two and killed with the sword . . .

Though the way of faith is not as narrow as cultists, religious or otherwise, might make it to be, it is not as wide as the indulgent and undisciplined suggest either. While faith may not be a highway, it is, nevertheless, a detectable pathway and a great host of witnesses exist who have walked it.

The way of faith is trodden by dynamic heroes but as often as not those who follow it are low-key people, and this is the case with St. John's members. No Nobel prize winners have been produced, no Martin Luthers. The congregation has been a little salt in its time and a little light in its place. Genuine faith is a narrow and difficult path rather than a broad and easy one. Those who walk it, whether in the Christian tradition or in another, will find they have a friend in Jesus. Looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, we pray that St. John's Congregation will be faith-ful also in its second fifty years.

Roy Pudrycki (Pastor)



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

On behalf of St. John's Congregation the History Committee wishes to extend their gratitude to all those members and friends who battled with their conscience and reached back into memories to record and submit a family story; to all the people who researched the initial draft and collected pictures, including the photographers for taking additional pictures.

To Julius Birkholz for the German and A. Missal for the English renditions of St. John's History; to Alfred Banick and Henry Pretzlaff for the History of Zion Lutheran.

To Karen Clipperton for the submission of the title.

To the designer of the cover Marreen Missal.

To the typists Marty Birrell, Joan Adam, Winnie Busenius, Rena Jait and Leona Pretzlaff.

To proofreaders Dianne Dunse, Rena, Jo-Anne, and Emil Jait, Elsie Beck and Lil Laiss; for the German script Reinhardt Dunse, Leo and Eva Friedrich and Alf Wieman.

And to Dennis Cambly, representative for Josten's publications for his help and direction.

Appreciation is also expressed to Alberta Culture for grant assistance and to the many depositories of information, received or verified; the Edmonton City Archives and Centennial Library; Provincial Archives and Land Titles of Alberta; Glenbow Archives, Calgary; Histories of Germans from Poland and Russia; the Fiftieth Anniversary Booklet and Pastors of the Synod; the Hundred Anniversary Booklet of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police; to the personnel of the County of Strathcona and friends and neighbors and especially those inadvertently overlooked.

The St. John's History Committee:

Alfred Banick, Julius Birkholz, Louise Busenius, Mary Busenius, Clara Domke, Elly Hirsch, Adalbert Missal, Henry Pretzlaff and Pastor Roy Pudrycki.

# The Pathway



*Common Home of Settlers from Central Europe*



## THE PATHWAY

The year 1795 has a bearing on St. John's Lutheran Ardrossan, so does 1772 and 1793; they were the years of The Partitioning of Poland.

Many of the family stories included here follow a pattern. As the stories unfold, they refer to the place of origin, in this case Poland. Although Poland is mentioned in many stories, it ceased to exist as a country in 1795, after the third partition, when Austria, Prussia and Russia divided it. Russia got the lion's share, an area somewhat larger than the other two countries combined.

It was after the last partition that some of the forefathers of our congregation first settled in these occupied lands. Because of the strong influence the area had on its people, it was normally referred to "born in Poland", when the actual phrase should have been "born in the Prussian zone of Poland", or other. The country remained under the yoke of foreign masters for nearly 125 years, until 1918, after World War 1. During the turmoil of fighting after the war, lessons in school were taught in different languages every few years, depending on which country occupied the area. Some individuals served in armies of several countries consecutively.

For centuries Poland was a war corridor, containing areas that were uninhabited, while other areas were only borderline for agricultural use. The immigrants who settled these areas chose to name their new villages after the places they left or the name was at times selected for them by neighboring villagers, who referred to each other by village names of origin e.g. "those Heimtalsers".

One thing was in their favor; there were already scattered pockets of Lutheran congregations throughout occupied Poland. At first the immigrants were affiliated with and served from these centers. The favorably located new villages grew rapidly, built churches and gradually picked up filial (daughter) congregations of their own.

Some of the 16 churches of the Evangelical-Augsburg Confession, that originated in the Sixteenth century developed into Synods. A church in Wilna, Lithuania dedicated in 1555 was part of this group of Synods. Polish speaking congregations were established also and created language problems when a Polish pastor was installed in a German congregation, likewise when the situation was reversed.

Despite the Napoleonic Wars, congregations were established until 1809, then resumed again after 1820 at a much greater pace, more than doubling in number for the remainder of the century. The increase continued even with the emigration to

Wolhynia after the Polish uprising against Russia in 1831, faltering a little during the great migration before and after the 1863 rebellion which had been brewing for some time.

From the beginning of the Twentieth century until 1920 when the Exiled of 1915 returned from Siberia, there were very few congregations formed. This emigration included Canada as well. Never-the-less, some 55 churches were organized to 1939, when this source of information was last dated.

In the emigration from Poland to Wolhynia, the first groups settled between Zhitomer and Nowograd-Wolynsk, but by 1863 a third Parish was needed and was established in Heimtal. Again villages appeared under names of homes people had left.

Each family received farm land that had to be developed, plus a wood lot and meadow. These parcels could be situated in different directions from the village and as far as 15 kilometers away. Even though their first homes were mud huts, the first permanent building of logs was the school, serving for worship services as well, until a more desirable building with better materials could be built, after the settlers were more established.

The influx of settlers was so great that in a short span of two decades, the population increased from some 40 colonies with approximately 6,000 people, to over 100,000.

One pastor had to supply the religious comfort for a Parish (Kreis) of 16,000, consisting of some 80 communities, which was a situation less than desirable. For the first while there were enough Deacons (Küsters) who had come along from Poland to assist the pastor in ministering to the needs of the congregation. There was a need for more Deacons - with time their ranks diminished - and a Seminary was needed to train them, which was eventually built in Heimtal. Pastors had to receive their education outside the country.

The Pastor lived in the central village, in this case Zhitomer, a government center. It was the parish center as well, where the parsonage was built, surrounded by the many communities that he served. The central church, seating over 500 persons had services every Sunday. Some twenty of the larger hamlets received two services a year, while the remainder were lucky if the Pastor served them once in that time. The Deacons who in some cases were also the school teachers in many localities, supplemented the Sunday services in the absence of the pastor. Their salary ranged from 90 to 250 Rubels.

The Pastor, who was paid by the State was selected by the Consistory - a Supervising Clerical board

appointed by the state - and was installed by the Government Official. He received a salary ranging from 400 to 700 Rubel and a parsonage in the main village of the parish. There was also an incidental income, (Akzidenzien-Wolhynia expression), for: Baptism, 50 Kopek; Confirmation 75 Kopek; Weddings, Four Rubel and fifteen Kopek and Communion 15 Kopek. Each center had a different price range. In 1906-07 there was a total of 760 confirmands in this single Parish. The confirmands were gathered at the Pastor's center four weeks in advance, in preparation for the exam.

Of these Official Acts, the deacon could baptize and perform burials, if the pastor was unavailable. Research did not reveal if the baptismal charge went to the deacon, or if there was a charge for burial.

The colonists were certainly children-rich. They were a prolific lot, 12 to 15 children were common. Sorrow was a constant companion in large families too; it would be a good average if two-thirds of the children became adults. Statistics show, that with the natural increase, - counter-balanced by immigration and emigration, - the population of Wolhynia doubled in 20 years, to over 200,000 with some 500 colonies.

The government directives that appeared from time to time at first seemed quite harmless, and were accepted generally, as proper, but in consequence, proved the reverse. A decree of 1861 in the reign of Alexander II abolished serfdom also giving the Russian peasant the right to own land.

Envy and resentment of conditions then appeared more openly among the Russian villagers. The differences were readily apparent - the living conditions, possession of land and schools in the colonist villages were noticeably better to those of the recently emancipated serfs. There was 75 percent illiteracy in the bordering Russian villages - villages that were located sometimes less than two kilometers from each other. The resulting uneasiness that developed among the settlers culminated with the Russification program after the Decree of 1874. There was to be one national church - Orthodox; Russian schools appeared; all exams were conducted in Russian, and shortly afterwards the lessons in the colony schools were included. Villages were renamed, Heimtal for example became Staraja Buda, and colonist sons were conscripted, for army service, losing their exempted status.

Each government intrusion, whether by act or by war, stimulated a migration, as was the case with the Agara Policy of 1905. It promoted the program of land purchase by the Agara bank, whereby all land was bought, whether owned or rented. Land that the

settlers spent a life time clearing to make arable, now was out of reach. This was especially discouraging to renters who were singled out in the first place, who intended to buy. These policies were deliberately directed to the foreign element, Finnish, Polish and German - 90 percent of those in Wolhynia were Polish Germans. Communities sometimes were also referred to as owner or renter villages depending on which group was greater in number.

Memory of incidents from the past are now approaching the "years of recall", by a few of our members born in that era. An occurrence that unfolded prior to the First World War has already been told from the "lucky" side; it wasn't a happy occasion for those involved. Emigrants leaving for Canada were required to have medical examinations before boarding the ship. Those affected were detained from continuing the journey on occasion, splitting families; leaving them stranded. Standing on the pier, they watched their on-board relatives until the ship disappeared over the horizon. This story has a happy ending, though many, many years later and not until after the second war, were the detained able to continue their journey to Canada, rejoining their families. But first enduring; the turbulent trek to Siberia; the way back; the transition period; and the disturbance of the Second World War.

It wasn't long when the rumblings of World War I were rolling over Europe. After the Russian army suffered it's first defeat, colonist soldiers in battle were suspected of subterfuge, and were immediately removed to the Caucasus on the eastern front. Their families at home were experiencing the same mistrust and were banished to Siberia. An estimated 50,000 lives were lost on this torturous trek. On their return to their homes after the war, many continued on to Germany and America.

Peace did not come to the area immediately after the war. Poland continued fighting, regaining possessions lost many years ago. Famine and draught followed in the wake of the battles. Finally some semblance of order was established. Life began anew.

However, ominous dark clouds were gathering on the political horizon, the resulting fallout, the Second World War bringing a repeat of grim and grisly catastrophies. As the engines of war puffed their last horribles, a movement to the west - evident over the entire face of eastern Europe - creeping slowly in all manner of vehicles over all types of terrain, seeking refuge and security. These were the multitudes of displaced persons. A fragment of such an act was unfolding north east of Gdansk. The terrain was relatively smooth frozen harbor water. Hundreds of



horse drawn vehicles were urged on by motley remnants of families taking the short cut to the spit across the bay to avoid the areas of combat. Gunfire from behind hurried them ever faster barely enabling them to spot open waters. That, many of these travelers went through the ice was inevitable but that some got across was evident - as related by some who were there.

The first immigrants arriving on the Canadian prairies in 1888 and on, did not find the milk and honey, they were led to believe and had expected. And once again names of home towns appeared as though to retain the memories of yesteryear. They also retained their folklore in varying degree. These people were influential in establishing the Lutheran Church in western Canada. While paging through Anniversary booklets of congregations it is obvious by how often the phrase "immigrated from Poland or Wolhynia" appears.

The animosity towards the German immigrants in eastern Europe - after the First World War broke out - existed here in Canada as well. The destiny of the Royal North West Mounted Police, was affected by these immigrants to the extent that the members of the force were refused permission to enlist for active duty. So the R.N.W.M.P. were retained for surveillance and policing the west to prevent any actions of expected sabotage. Also the cancellation of the contract, by the Canadian government, they had with the Alberta Provincial Police, an independent body in existence at the time, was relative to the situation. Now as British subjects with privileges and rights they had acquired as new citizens included them for induction into the Canadian Army. The very thing the settlers had endured untold misery and privation in the land of origin, that they wanted to get away from.

The effect of two more eras were to be encountered, the Roaring Twenties with all it's glories, which was reversed by the draught and hunger of the depression. The Depression is where St. John's enters

the scene, one scene of many - one play like many. The players - a variety of players from varied scenes - each entering the stage from pathways each their own, guided by faith.

He leads me in paths of righteousness for His names sake. Even though I walk through the valley of death, I fear no evil for thou art with me.

Psalm 23.



## A Sojourn with Faith





The sun first spread its rays of light on St. John's Lutheran Church of Ardrossan on the sixteenth day of November A.D. 1936, when it was registered at the office of the Registrar of Stock Companies with the Government of the Province of Alberta (officially that is).

The conception was many years before -- that it took so long, is unique for our congregation and this area.

Fifty years for celebration is a very short span to bring back for compiling a history and should be relatively easy, that is if the records were squirreled away reasonably well.

The early records that are available are conflicting -- no reflection on the pioneers. We are fortunate to have members who can recall some of the events; if their memories are at times contradictory, it is understandable.

Consider the difference in written records by two Recorders: The 1940 Parochial Report to the United Lutheran Church of America.

Data of organization - *June 9, 1929*

If rural, direction and distance from nearest town  
... - *(4) four miles south of Ardrossan*

Parochial Report of 1942;

Date of organization - *1932*

Direction and distance - *4 1/2 miles from Ardrossan* (no directions)

The History committee have put in uncounted hours of research over the last three years and yet they came up with "blanks". The result brought forth here from many paths is as near as was possible, to the center of the road.

#### *Early History*

When the area (directly related to St. John's Congregation) first became available for settlement, it was by-passed by close-knit groups that had things in common, mainly because of soil conditions, topography and stones. Late-comers and stragglers took up homesteads, stayed for awhile, and then moved on. This accomplished one thing -- a thoroughly mixed group of people who remained. Only a very few farms have stayed in one family for several generations.

The "land boom" before 1914 brought in the speculators, and real estate people. Land companies bought up as many sections of land as possible. The few hardy settlers who sent their 'tap' roots down deep, and stayed on one location, were not near to each other. Even today there are quarter sections of land still in the raw state, never touched by plow or bulldozer.

The real estate speculator had a bonanza in the recent "land boom" too. For the present-day land

owner, the subdivisions of our County (Strathcona) make the most ideal sites for homes.

It wasn't established how many of the early settlers were Lutherans until the Pastors of Trinity (South Edmonton) and St. Paul's of Ellerslie were contacted with requests for special religious services. The need for Baptism, Confirmation, Weddings, and Burial in the first few decades of 1900 indicated what number of people were out there. At different intervals, attempts were made to start a congregation, and each time after a survey was made, the same answer was received -- not enough people to support a church.

Although Ellerslie was deemed closer and had supplied service, notably by Pastor A. Goos, the people took their needs to Trinity. Understandably so, especially when a youngster was ready for Confirmation classes, when a shopping trip to town, on a Saturday would serve both needs. Also in the '20s, the Lutheran Immigration Board agent, Pastor Wilhelm Wahl was the Pastor at Trinity and was known by some of the people. He was the first person to greet some of them at the railway station when they first arrived from Europe. He was also called upon to hold services in the home of Fred Klatt and others, before he left in 1928. His replacement, Pastor Karl Freitag, continued to serve these families which included the homes of Theodore Lueders and



*The Fred Klatt Home: The first services were held here.*

Wilhelm Felske, by request.

In the minutes of Trinity, Strathcona of the May 26, 1929, Congregational meeting, a representative (vertreter) from the Clover Bar families requested church service one a month and twice a month school classes, on the promise of \$150 payment a year. It was agreed that they should receive the ministrations. A follow-up occurred in the August 24, 1931 meeting,



*The Theodore Lueders Home built in 1924. Services were held here in 1929.*

when it was reported that the income does not cover, by far, the promise that was made by Clover Bar. It was left for the Pastor to decide what he would want to do.

It should be noted the names, Strathcona and Clover Bar being used, when in fact they should have been South Edmonton and Ardrossan. Strathcona ceased to exist when it was amalgamated with Edmonton in 1912, while this area had been served from the Ardrossan Post Office since 1910 (when the Hamlet was established after the Grand Trunk Pacific Railroad was constructed). The mail service is why the name St. John's for location, on the reistration certificate is identified as "of Ardrossan", (probably now, it should be changed to "of Sherwood Park".)

By 1932 the following families and individuals were living in the area: Julius Anders, Mathilde Beck, Gustav Birkholz, Julius Birkholz, Michael Busenius, Wilhelm Busenius, Wilhelm Felske, Emil Jait Sr., Friedrich Jait, Theodore Lueders, Adolph Milke, Siegmund Schilman, August Seidlitz, Heinrich Stucke, Emil Wentland, and Adolph Werner.(1)

That Pastor Freitag continued the service is evident. At this time he was holding services in the "Renas house" when it became vacant, after W. Felske bought the farm. Some infants were now baptized here, thus avoiding the long trip to Trinity and were recorded there. It wasn't until 1941 when a motion at St. John's annual meeting requested that a Congregational record book "Gemeindensehlenbuch" should be kept.

As far back as 1929, an attempt was made to establish a Congregation through a council. Elected were W. Felske, F. Klatt, and T. Lueders to take care

of its affairs and also collect the "Pastoren Gehalt" or Pastor's compensation that was promised to Trinity and that they now paid directly to the Pastor.

When Pastor H. Luetkehoelter took over in 1934, the attendance was large enough to look for larger facilities. The Glen Garden school on the northwest corner of the Wye Road and Range Road 221 was made available. It must be assumed that after some time at school, conditions were such that the Pastor felt there was need for a place of their own for worship. Probably, the prospects of Confirmands, who were growing up was a strong factor. One Confirmation class was performed in the school.

At first a suitable church site could not be found, as agreement was never easy to achieve. A site about a quarter mile west of the school on the same quarter was considered. The majority favored this location,



*First Garden School opened in 1912. Services were held between 1934-36. Louise Busenius is second from the right.*

and had it not been for some legal technicalities, it probably would have been purchased. Not all families were in favor of the first choice. Those who lived in the extreme south felt that the distance would be too far, considering what the road conditions could be at times. The next site was a sort of compromise, when a location was found two and one half miles south of the Wye Road. It too could not be agreed upon. The land was too low and a bordering slough would not make it suitable for a cemetery. The cemetery was one of the prime requisites for a suitable site. The third spot looked at was back



further north. While appraising this location which didn't come up to some of the preset standards either, Pastor Luetkehoelter noticed what looked like the ideal place, right across the road and wondered if that land wouldn't be what was needed. All this search was along Range Road 221.

On investigation it was found that the land belonged to Western Canada Land Co. which fortunately didn't restrict the sale to the full quarter. This probably wouldn't have been the case when Canadian Pacific Railways owned the land. A three acre rectangular parcel was selected in the northwest corner of the N.W. 1/4-13-52-22-W4. (In the research at the Land Titles Office, it was revealed that the actual owner was the British Dominion Land Settlement Corporation Limited of London, England). The pioneers were able to get the land for \$10. an acre, in April 1936.

A meeting was called immediately to organize for the forthcoming activities. Pastor Luetkehoelter

suggested John Hildebrandt, a member of his Trinity Congregation to build and supervise the construction. All members' help was voluntary, with the exception of Mr. Hildebrandt. He suggested a log construction when asked what type of building would be the cheapest to build.

A nice stand of spruce, located on C.P.R. land, section 33, on the north shore of Cooking Lake was acquired by 'stumpage', (price per stump) and permit. Trees were felled and skidded to a rise of land that was locally known as Brighton Beach, on the west shore of a peninsula consisting of remnants of sections 32 and 33.

Winter set in early that year with heavy snow and cold weather making the work difficult for the loggers. Some of them stayed overnight at the Emil Jait Sr. residence for a while. A few local farmers, including several of the members, had hauled logs of their own to this site, making it worthwhile for Clarence Draeder to set up his saw mill. The first day

CANADA  
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA



Nº 430

## Certificate of Incorporation

I hereby certify that

— *St John's Lutheran Church of Hedrossan* —

is this day incorporated under "An Act Respecting the Holding of Lands in Trust for Religious Societies and Congregations," being Chapter 164 of the Revised Statutes of Alberta, 1922.

Given under my hand and seal at Edmonton,  
this *Sixteenth* day of — *November* —  
A.D. 19 *36*

*Rip Van Wyck*

Registrar of Joint Stock Companies



of sawing, however, almost ended in disaster. To avoid much heavy lifting, the logs were piled as high as possible, which was the downfall of safety, and fall down they (logs) did. When one of the fellows clambered up on the pile to get a start, he set loose a cascade of logs which, in turn, sent him riding the crest down to a standstill.

PART ONE—CONGREGATIONAL INFORMATION		RETURN FOR CONGREGATIONAL FILE	
THE UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA			
Parochial Report for the Calendar Year Ending December 31, 1940			
(One blank for each Congregation)			
To be filled out by the Pastor (or Secretary, if congregation has no pastor)			
CONGREGATION	<u>St. John's</u>	CONFERENCE	<u>Alberta</u>
SYNOD	<u>Manitoba</u>		
CONGREGATION IS	STANDARD <u>Yes</u>	DATE OF ORGANIZATION	<u>June 9, 1924</u>
NON-STANDARD (Non-standard congregations, as well as standard, should be fully reported. A separate Parochial Report must be made for each Congregation.)			
LOCATION OF CHURCH BUILDING: POPULATION:	Over 100,000	25,000-100,000	5,000-25,000
500-1,000	Under 500		
STREET	CITY	STATE	
In Rural, give direction and distance from nearest town. <u>4 Miles south of Ardrossan</u>			
NAME OF PAROCHIAL CHURCH (If more than one congregation is served by the Pastor)			
LANGUAGE, other than English, used in the regular services of the congregation. <u>German</u> Frequency of Use <u>usually</u>			
CONGREGATIONAL DIRECTORY			
PASTOR	<u>W. H. Luetkehoelter</u>	ADDRESS	<u>10213 8 Ave S. Edmonton</u>
YEAR ORGANIZED	<u>1915</u>	TEAR ENTERED THIS SYNO	<u>15</u>
DEACONS CONFIRMED WITHIN THE YEAR AND SOURCE			
ASSISTANT PASTOR			
DEACONS			
ELDER PRESIDENT	<u>John D. Doherty</u>	ADDRESS	<u>Ardrossan Alta</u>
SECRETARY	<u>Wm. Doherty</u>	ADDRESS	<u>" "</u>
STEWARDSHIP SECRETARY		ADDRESS	
THEATRE	<u>Wm. Doherty</u>	ADDRESS	<u>" "</u>
BENEFICENCE & TREASURER		ADDRESS	
PARISH WORKER		ADDRESS	
SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPT.	<u>W. H. Luetkehoelter</u>	ADDRESS	<u>" "</u>
CHURCH DIRECTOR		ADDRESS	
ORGANIST	<u>W. H. Luetkehoelter</u>	ADDRESS	<u>" "</u>
BROTHERHOOD PRESIDENT		ADDRESS	
WOMEN'S MISS SOC. PRESIDENT		ADDRESS	
LUTHERAN LEAGUE PRESIDENT		ADDRESS	
CHILDREN OF CHURCH LEADER		ADDRESS	
Date	<u>Dec. 13</u>	Signed	<u>W. H. Luetkehoelter</u>
		PASTOR SECRETARY	

Clarence, and his father Earl, operated the saw which was driven by a Titan tractor. A water-cooled motor of this vintage needed hot water on the cold mornings to help in starting. To overcome this problem, the tractor's radiator was drained into an eight-gallon milk can, after the days' work, which was then buried in the sawdust overnight. The water stayed warm enough to use the next morning.

Somewhere along the way, building plans were changed. Instead of a log church, it was decided to use frame construction, so the logs were sawn into lumber and later the same year, hauled to the building site by wagon. By this time the weather had turned mild, melting the snow almost entirely.

In the meantime, construction was going ahead. The cement-cast corner pillars which were approximately two feet square and about four feet high with roughly two feet above ground level, were placed. Records do not show and memories do not

recall exactly, the progress of the building to the time of the laying of the cornerstone. Some say just the corners were built, another says the floor was on, while others insist that the frame structure was up. Regardless of what memories tell us, the dedication of the "Cornerstone laying" was held on Second Christmas day 1936, conducted by Pastor Luetkehoelter. The Saturday afternoon service started at the school, in cold blustery weather, continued at the site, and before the ceremony had been completed, it was dark.

Also, during that year, some of the business transactions on other events were completed. Besides the purchase of the land in April, and the selection of the Congregation's name, the members made transactions with the CPR Co. in regards to the logs, arrangements with Draeder, and hired Hildebrand. They implemented member levies for land purchase and for construction of the Church. They also dedicated the cemetery which was put to immediate use when the J. Birkholz family had the misfortune of losing an infant son in a house fire.

The finalization of the land registration occurred on November 25, 1936. Later, another five acres were purchased in 1942 from the same land company. This extra land was added both on the south and east sides of the existing parcel, making it an equal sided lot.

In spring, construction resumed at a pace fast enough to make plans for the dedication to be held on May 23, 1937. The day arrived overcast and raining, at times very hard. At first, in the forenoon, a short ceremony was held by Pastor Luetkehoelter at the school, although not many members were present. Some were already at church, placing the improvised plank benches and looking after other preparations. The short distance of a mile and a half from the school to the church was made by a mixed procession of cars and wagon over heavy mud roads. A short ceremony in front of the church was followed up by the Pastor leading the assembly into the church, with Fred Jait carrying the Bible, to complete the morning service.

The success of that day 50 years ago can only be measured by comparing the Sunday offerings of the time; (those records are available.) The offering of \$26.36 for the dedication was equal to the members' offering for the first half of the year. That the day was a success was also substantiated by recall. Considering the dreary day, the attendance was good, with a fair sprinkling of Trinity members noticed among the guests. The large attendance was a major concern for the ladies. The lunch was running low so they had to send someone to the store for more supplies. The pioneers' hospitality of comfort



and nourishment was as good as could be offered, even though the conditions of the Hungry Thirties were at their worst at the time.

Like a newly-married bride, St. John's was showered with gifts by the neighboring Lutheran congregations, for which it was very thankful. St. Matthew's of Spruce Grove gave the Bible, candleholders and collection plates. The Spruce Grove Sunday School donated the crucifix. The Communion flagon was received from Trinity, the chalice from the United States and Immanuel Rosental donated \$15.55. Individuals who presented gifts were: a lady from New York \$200, Ed Steffler of Spruce Grove \$35 for the altar, Julius Hahn and his father \$25 for the first organ, Robert Renas donated two altar chairs and Julius Birkholz a conglomium runner.

It would be nice if it could be stated that St. John's was coasting from here on, but that is not the case. Some parts on the new church were still unfinished, but were eventually completed.

Not too many years passed when it was realized that the heating system wasn't the best. The little heater put out all it could, making the front of the church hot while the back was too cold. In 1940 the system was changed when the dirt was hacked out from under the church to make a basement.

Pastor Luetkehoelter was given the distinction or honor -- depending on how one sees this - to remove the first spade of dirt. Whether that was an incentive for him is not known. In any case he stayed with the job until it was finished. He not only helped with the digging, he was there for the concrete work as well. The financial statement shows that he was paid one dollar to bring out a cement mixer.

The walls were formed leaving the cornerpillars in place, although they were thicker and had to be chiseled. A furnace which served a much larger building was bought from Trinity at a small price and was installed by Glaser Brothers. The congregation was happy to have a basement, a room to serve meals for festivals, to hold their meetings in or for Sunday School. The basement seemed more appropriate than using the nave to hold meetings since some of them had been quite stormy.

Pastor Luetkehoelter arranged for Pastor F. Gaertner, a student, to serve Ardrossan and Fultonvale parishes for the summer of 1940. He was billeted in the "Renas house". The same house was used by Pastor Gerhard Weise when he came to St. John's in July 1941.

Now that the congregation had their first resident Pastor it did not seem proper to have him live in a building that was used as a granary at the same time.



*1946 - The addition to the church parsonage.*

A parsonage was necessary. As luck would have it, a four-room cottage was for sale less than five miles from church. This house originally was built on a beach of North Cooking Lake, when the lake was prominent as a summer resort. The lake waters receded in the dry years leaving the resort business high and dry. Adolph Werner<sup>(3)</sup> (originally from St. Paul's Ellerslie) bought one of these cabins and moved it to his farm. He decided to leave the area, selling the house to the congregation.

The building was placed on two log skids in preparation for the move with the tractor power supplied by the members. The two 15-30 I.H.C. (International Harvester Co.) steel-wheeled tractors were hitched side by side. More power was thought necessary so a third tractor was added, a rubber-tired Massey-Harris which was geared to high and couldn't be synchronized with the speed of the slower tractors. That idea was abandoned. The original plan was to have enough power to avoid any problems on the narrow country roads of the time, where the procession couldn't be passed from either direction. They wanted no trouble and had no trouble. The only excitement happening on the drag was the wearing off of half the diameter of the skids.

The house was nothing more than a shell with the inside studding still exposed. There was much work and material needed to make it livable. The last owner had not put too many improvements on the building.

The expense of the basement and parsonage put a financial strain on the members. A loan of \$500 was taken with the Board of American Missions through the Secretary Dr. E.A. Tappert in New York. The

Board required a security on the loan and so a mortgage was taken on the property. Several other provisions were entered into: a payment of \$50 annually on the loan, the fiscal year-end moved to November 15 and the annual meetings to be held before year's end. The fiscal year was eventually returned to December 31 for 1966.

A very eventful year for St. John's - Pastor Weise was ordained on July 27, 1941 with Pastor Luetkehoelter officiating. A garage was built. Two annual meetings were held, one at the beginning and one at the end of the year. The Ladies Aid was formed by Pastor Weise and the ladies also were extended a vote on annual meetings; one more for the positive side, a grant of \$250 was received from the Mission Board to help defray expenses for the parsonage.

Until now, Ardrossan and Fultonvale parishes were two separate entities, each developing on its own with both being served from Trinity - a good example of what in Poland would be referred to as "Filials to a central congregation". As was already mentioned, these two congregations were destined to become one, since neither could afford a pastor on its own. The logical thing to do was to share, which included alternating the morning and afternoon services, held every Sunday by our now live-in pastor. This format worked well until Pastor Weise was "drafted" for a congregation in North Dakota in late '43. In the war years Pastors were also in short supply. The two congregations had to depend on the goodness of Pastor Luetkehoelter and Trinity again.

By August 5, 1944, the vacancy was filled when Pastor H.E. Lehman came to Ardrossan. After 10 months when a difference developed in the congregation, Pastor Lehman chose to go into retirement.

Pastor Luetkehoelter, still determined to keep progress advancing, drew on the supply of surrounding pastors to substitute for him when he was unable to attend a Sunday service. He kept a continual lookout for a pastor to fill the void and arranged for audition sermons at every opportunity. Whether one side or the other was critical, a "marriage" did not come about till July 1946, when Pastor Paul Hanneman held his audition. There was an air of tenseness and anticipation that transformed noticeably to pacification and acceptance. The "knot" was tied and was to last for 26 years.

It was many years before the congregation came on stream financially, however. Whenever the yearly repayment of the loan could not be met, the Ladies Aid could always be relied on for help. In many instances when the coffers of the congregation were

low, the ladies would supply the cash. To build up their reserves, they asked permission to have a chicken supper in the church basement, but it was denied as being an "inappropriate gathering". Before television and other events made inroads on home-spun entertainment, the ladies held family nights for the congregation. This was an enjoyable night where the unexpected could happen and usually did; where a member buys his own cap unknowingly. Or a newly arrived immigrant buys a tin of strawberries with a switched vegetable label and liked what she got not knowing the English for either product. She took the label to a store to buy more of the same and got what the label said - red beets. The entertainment evenings were always held in members homes. The amusement of the fun night lasted for months afterwards.

Homemade fun spread to the annual picnics as well, which were usually held in members' pastures. It soon became evident that the cattle had to be kept out for about two weeks before. At times the picnics were held in secluded meadows along Cooking Lake shores, before the grounds were leveled behind the church.

The day started out with Pastor Hanneman holding devotions under the shade of the trees, complete with music and choir. To make a picnic a picnic, as little as possible was hauled in. Although the pasture picnics may have had some "ground cover" inconveniences, they never had any rain. A most outstanding event was the married couples wheelbarrow race; not the kind school boys participated in, but with real wheelbarrows. Barnyard wheelbarrows (scrubbed clean) were lined up at the starting line with the wives in the barrows. Not much problem for the men to cross the finish line with their precious load, but they didn't know that there would be a switch, with the men as the cargo on the return trip. It's surprising how well the ladies brought their husbands home in the wheelbarrows. The winner wasn't always the center of interest. In this race, the excitement was in the back stretch where one wife would be struggling valiantly in the attempt, dumping her husband several times before crossing the finish line. Besides the hilarity this race created, it also pointed out which ladies handled the wheelbarrows in the barn. Man and wife bottle races or the pie eating contest were equally as funny.

Other events worthy of recall were the establishing the champion; or dethroning him in a pillow fight (sack filled with hay). The two contestants straddled a rail four feet off the ground, each armed with a pillow, attempting to dislodge the other. One other bit of fun was a saddled barrel, suspended by four



ropes just high enough to avoid injury when thrown by the "horse". Pastor Hanneman braved this apparatus and was saved just short of losing his dignity and change, when the boys working the ropes eased off, they noticed that he was "pulling leather". The day was completed with a "choose-up" soft ball game.

The picnics were institutionalized when they became an annual event. In later years they were sponsored by the Sunday School and held primarily on completion of the Sunday School year, although the congregation is still very much a part of them, with softball the highlight of the day, followed by barnyard golf (horseshoes).

ARD. Annual Meeting Dec. 1, 1942  
FULT. Annual Meeting Dec. 4, 1942

	Ard.	Fult.
Charter Members -	21	14
Present Membership - Bap. -	101	74
Confirmed - 66 Male - 31 Female -	35	48 (24) (24)
Communicant -	51	37
Contributors -	21	18
Accessions 2 Losses	54	(4) (3)
Av. Attendance - Matin -	54	45
Midweek -	35	38
Communion Services	4	4
Av. Communing -	18	12
C.Sch. Enrollment -	15	15
Av. Attendance -	14	12
Ladies Aid. -	14	13

Pastor	115.00	87.50
Sexton	10.00	10.00
Other	25.00	10.00
Heat, light	20.00	7.29
Repairs	36.00	18.00
Insurance	18.00	-
S.S. Supplies	10.00	-
Miscellaneous	73.69	60.00
Total expenses	307.69	192.79
Loan	50.00	-
Disbursements	357.69	192.79
Balance on hand	18.13	47.03
end of Period		
Total	\$375.82	\$239.82

	Ard.	Fult.
Offerings	114.68	114.82
Others	25.00	12.00
Contributions	115.00	87.50
Gift	80.00	
Total Receipts -	364.68	214.32
Balance - Beginning of Period	11.14	25.50
Total	\$375.82	\$239.82

Organization	Ard.	Fult.
	\$60.30	\$22.00

Picnics like many other subjects that kept appearing year after year in the minutes, have been acceptable or important enough to continue or they would have been put aside or forgotten. The History Committee, when researching, made notes of these items and other oddities. Some of them bear retelling, and though some may show contradiction on rules of procedure, no one was aware that protocol had been broken. Each and every person had the progress of the church in mind. This is typical of all organizations although some members



1946 - St. John's Lutheran Church. The Ford belongs to Rev. P. Hanneman.

were more cautious than others. For example, in 1950, the minutes showed an inconspicuous motion that toilets be built. It appeared in each annual meeting from '51 to '54 and accepted each time. It showed up once more in '55 only in reverse this time, that we do not build the toilets. Motion carried. However that did not keep the toilets out of the minutes the next year, and finally in 1960 the toilets were reported built.

When a loan was necessary for a certain project, a motion was passed facilitating the borrowing of the monies. The negative faction in regards to the

amount, formulated another motion which also passed. A third attempt for a conclusion, passed as well, all within a half hour. The odd thing was that each motion had a different amount for the resolution and each one passed with the same vote, for and against. The next meeting came up with a new total; the final solution for the problem.

When major projects were completed, the agenda items reverted to clean-up and incidentals.



Organizations that get to this stage, can be said they've "gone to the dogs". A common occurrence in hamlets or counties when problems are lacking, is to concentrate on the issue of dogs running at large. Our congregation didn't "go to the dogs", but they did hound the service charges for the Official Acts (in Wolhynia they were called Akzidenzien). These charges were changed sometimes yearly. Very seldom were the old motions ever rescinded. Consequently these motions, considered as bylaws would have three or four different prices and each one could be valid, a practice that still continues. For all that, no disputes ever occurred.



1957 Church Picnic

In 1944, a regulation was passed restricting the council expenditure to \$10.00 without congregation approval. Fortunately it was removed in 1950. In the process of discharging the mortgage, it was discovered that the additional five acres bought in 1942 were not consolidated (1950) with the original three acres. The cost of the transaction for combining the two parcels of land totaled more than twice the \$10.00 restriction.

Another item that got lost in the minutes or in the turnover of council members, was the legalization of the cemetery. It was dedicated and initiated in 1936, but the final Certificate of Approval didn't come about till 1948.

#### *General History*

To support a growing family, Pastor Hanneman had to be as self-reliant as possible. To do that, home produce was essential. A barn was built, a well dug and fences put up to keep cows and chickens. He was able to ship some cream as well. This situation not much different to a Küster's (Sexton) life style in Wolhynia, which some of the original members were well acquainted with.

When the electricity came through the district in 1954, it was installed in the church and parsonage but not in the barn. The electric power regulations were that the congregation was not a farming operation and therefore would not qualify in that category, so the barn did not get wired. The pastor used a lantern and pumped water for the stock by hand until he moved to Fort Saskatchewan in 1959. Today we wonder why it could not have been different.

All-day Mission Festivals, served other purposes as well at least as far as the congregation was concerned. Foremost of course was the collection of funds for missions. The festivals also provided an opportunity to enjoy devotions in other area churches. Because the Sundays were selected for each congregation, care was taken that the dates for neighboring parishes would not conflict. While pastors exchanged pulpits, the people exchanged visits. A great significance was placed on the visitations; they were occasions for fellowships with seldom-seen friends and relatives which continued during the intermission, when great lunches were served by the ladies and usually followed by a band concert making the festival a gala occasion. A flurry of action for each family preceded the festival in preparation for the noon lunches and when friends were invited to their homes for the evening meal. Ardrossan held the Mission Festivals yearly, with equal importance placed on "Kirchweih" - Church Dedication Anniversary. Gradually it became more difficult to get guest pastors and just as gradually the





*Church Festival Mission*

afternoon service faded out of existence. Finally the festival disappeared altogether. Many a marriage developed from friendships started on these festivals. St. John's held its last one on August 18, 1969.

Ardrossan, like many other country congregations celebrated Thanksgiving only after the crops were harvested. If the crops weren't in, there was nothing to be thankful for, was the general attitude. After all, didn't "Erntedankfest" mean Harvest festival? The fluctuation of the date was inconvenient, since with no telephone committees at the time and not many telephones either and no news bulletins at all, some members missed it entirely. (The telephone was installed in the church in 1974). To stabilize the situation, the annual meeting of Dec. '55 declared the date should be on the Sunday before the National Thanksgiving holiday in October.

Pastor O. Goos (came to St. John's in 1973) suggested many innovations; one was the Candlelight service. The first of these was held on a Sunday before Christmas with the theme "Jesus is the light of the World" which inspired the congregation to continue the practise. The following year, due to severe weather, the service was celebrated after Christmas. Several years went by before it switched places with the Sunday School Christmas Eve program.

Tradition was nudged, when a contemporary Communion Service was first used for the Maundy Thursday service; to quote from the 1975 Annual Report: "Many people found it a little difficult to adjust to and follow at that time, which was somewhat discouraging. However, when we used the service setting again for Thanksgiving the response was much better." Another quote from the same report: "On Easter morning, we had our first ever Sunrise service. A service where the members can

experience the same wonderful feeling of happiness, joy and excitement the followers of Jesus felt on the morning of his glorious resurrection nearly 2000 years ago. The service was followed by a communal breakfast of eggs, buns and coffee. Unfortunately there was a snowfall the night before . . ." One envisions the contrast of the local scene of heavy snow fall to the warm climate of the Holy Land on Easter Morning.

The celebration of Maundy Thursday and Sunrise service are now accepted events taking their position alongside other traditions of St. John's.

#### *Transition*

To incorporate the use of English into our services was a repeat performance of the establishing of the congregation. The same questions arose - when is it practical to start? When do we have enough people to make it worthwhile? Will it continue to operate? and so on.

Apparently a path of least resistance was followed, and problems were dealt with as they developed, with the changes coming in a slow, sometimes stormy form of evolution. The first indication of change was the 15 English Hymn books that were acquired in 1943. In '48 an English service was held in combination with the German service on the last Sunday of the month. After this several attempts were made to increase the English worship either by separate services; afternoon only, or every other Sunday. For awhile combined services were held every other Sunday, eventually taking in all Sundays. Every attempt was made to keep the small congregation together, not to divide it. During the debates, someone wondered out loud if the English and German people would be separate in Heaven too.

Meanwhile Sunday School lessons were held in English already, and when more and more confirmands were present in worship service, German and English hymns were selected with identical meter or tune. In Communion service it was not uncommon to hear the Pastor say to a communicant, "Nimm hin und iss, das ist der Leib Christi, der für dich gegeben ist" and to his neighbor "Take and eat, this is the Body of Christ, given for thee," changing as necessary. Nevertheless, there was some displeasure and grumbling when one had to sit through two sermons and hear the same one in each language. Actually it was good. It was a language lesson as well as sermon, for those who only had scant knowledge of either tongue.

A parallel and equally important development in the welfare of the congregation was the transition of the written language. German was used throughout until January 1948, when the council minutes began

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to appear in English, mainly because of correspondance and all business transactions. The annual meetings were still held and recorded in German. The 1962 minutes slipped in, in English, on the annual meeting and had to be translated verbatim. This little boost kept the written German going for another two years, till 1964.

The intermission between pastor changes, brought an abrupt change to the equal language billing when a bilingual supply pastor wasn't always available. The Synod, through President Sjoberg was always able to select a permanent pastor who could take the situation in hand. With new members joining the church and the old timers moving into retirement or carried to the grave, the language pendulum was swinging the other way. Entries in the minutes began to appear, questioning how the problem of the German services could best be resolved. Would every second Sunday be sufficient? That was all right for a time, but as each Senior found it much more difficult to "get up and go" especially in the winter months, services were discontinued, resuming when the weather turned warm and on Special Holidays. You could almost call them "Fair-weather Christians" if it wasn't for the circumstances.

During the period from the end of 1972 to mid '73 when St. John's was without a pastor, the council sought aid from the Synod to fill the vacancy. In the interim, President Sjoberg set up a schedule of pastors for Sunday services. With the aid of news

letters he informed the council and congregation; updating with more letters when needed. Communication or the lack of it, indicates the direction of growth the parish will take.

Pastor Goos suggested a news letter to keep the people informed; its eager acceptance led to applying the idea to other facets of ministry. Soon afterward the Sunday bulletin came into existence. With the increased activity in the printing business, more equipment was required. The council supplied the typewriter, while the Young People provided the duplicator.

From 1973 on, there was no shortage of information. Through Pastor Goos' leadership, the Annual report pamphlet got started. The reports, for example: Stewardship, Delegate and Auditor were given orally on previous annual meetings. Now some 30 reports give an overall picture of the churches' activities. The Road Runner which was born in 1979 is the present herald for the congregation and the continuation of what other forms of media attempted to do in bringing information to the people.

In 1952 St. John's became self-supporting, in that, aid from the Mission Board ended. Regardless of how much dissatisfaction it created within the congregation, the out-come and attitude was to maintain what they had, although the parish felt it was weaned too soon, they increased Pastor Hanneman's salary to where he felt he could manage. The Board support had started on or before 1940 when



Pastor Luetkehoelter submitted an application for aid. This was continued for Pastors Weise and Hanneman for both Ardrossan and Fultonvale congregations, and gradually scaled down until the subsidy ended. If the congregation had analyzed the yearly reports, it probably would have understood better the reasons and functions of the Mission Board.

Having taken care of the supposedly bad news there was also some good news. No more mortgage and no more payments for '52. The budget rose to the \$2000 range at that time. Due to some legal requirements by the Mission Board and the reluctance of the council to comply to it, the mortgage discharge did not get finalized till January of '55, (the year that Sherwood Park hamlet came on the scene) and also a start of a building fund. The gradual deterioration of the basement showed that repair was a prime concern.

The question in 1959 was whether to repair or to replace the basement? That was a year of important decisions: Pastor Hanneman's move to Fort Saskatchewan, the necessity of more teachers for Sunday School and the amalgamation of Zion Fultonvale and St. John's Ardrossan.

Many factors contributed to joining of the two parishes Pastor Hanneman reached the age of retirement. His ability to get around was remarkable, but the road conditions on rainy days was another matter. He would have to rely on a member, and his jeep to get to Fultonvale. In the next year he would have 40 years in the ministry. Attendance was low. Some members had moved away; others had already joined St. John's, not to mention the extra distance from Fort Saskatchewan. All these little items entered the picture. It took two years before all problems of concern were settled and the merger took effect. Members of Zion were troubled about their assets and rightly so. Not until an answer, received from the Board of American Mission on the question "What is the correct way to transfer the assets"? did the merger get the green light. The proceeds of the Zion property sale of \$2200 plus the \$330 from the sale of the barn of St. John's, were added to the building fund. With other money accumulated, the total of the fund strengthened the decision to repair the basement.

However, on closer examination of the extent of the repair needed, the excessive heaving of walls and floor caused by the particular expansion of clay in the soil; it was decided to tender bids for replacement of the basement instead. Soil had a very definite bearing on the destiny of St. John's.

The following incidents, besides those already



*1963 - Church parsonage.*

mentioned, indicates how the peculiarities of the clay tormented the people. Back in the days when the Sunday services were held in the Renas House, Pastor Freitag's car got him a few hundred yards down the crossroad turn-off, still a mile from his destination. The wheels were hopelessly plugged and he couldn't budge the car another inch. Walking was almost impossible so that he arrived a bit late, shoes in hand, with pants rolled up to his knees.

Much later when most members owned a car of some sort but were not yet mechanically minded, this one chap was slugging home in foot-deep ruts. His car came to a rumbling stop. The battery had ripped out from under the seat, below the floor boards and was sitting on the road several car-lengths behind. He had the neighbor tow the car into the neighbors yard. Putting the broken battery in the back of the car and taking his groceries headed for home. He returned 15 minutes later. He had forgotten to turn off the key.

Nor was the cemetery exempt from soil problems. In the past neighbors or friends of a deceased person, usually dug the grave, in this case for a non-member. When the digging got to be hard going, dynamite was used to help along. Could have been a bone-shaking experience. Later at the annual meeting a motion was passed, that no more dynamite was to be used in the cemetery.

The special meeting of June 19, 1963, called for the purpose of comparison on bids for remodeling and new construction as requested. The bids were found to be excessively high. On analyzing the estimated costs available on various components of the proposed building, it became evident that a new building could be had for a far less cost than the



*1963 - Laying of the cornerstone.*

present bids and if the route of a general contractor was discarded. Before the meeting was over, several committees were formed to follow-up requirements for a complete new structure. The congregation took the role of general contractor with a committee of three; E. Doberstein, Gus Domke and A. Missal, for supervising and co-ordinating the project. The plans for a 32' X 56' stucco frame building with three hinge laminated arches of medium profile was selected.

Other committees were: for planning, A. Birkholz, E. Doberstein, W. Hanneman, C. Hirsch and D. Pretzlaff and for finance A. Adam, P. Felske, and L. Swonek.



Voluntary work and donations helped complete the work more quickly. A. Adam volunteered the labour for the plumbing and the kitchen cabinets. A. Missal supplied the blue prints and the electrical wiring. Later when required, C. Hirsch donated the top soil for landscaping delivered by W. Laiss with Twin Bridge's truck, also gratis.

Construction progressed rapidly, considering the sod-turning took place only on Sunday, October 6, 1963 (after the service) that in five weeks also on a Sunday (Nov. 10) the corner-stone ceremony could be celebrated. With the continuing good weather, after the building was closed-in, and the heating installed, enabled the first service to be held on the Sunday before Christmas.

There seemed to be no regrets on that Christmas Eve program for the little church that housed and protected the congregation for 27 years. Throughout the years it served her people well. Receiving with assimilated grace the sad times and the outnumbered happy ones that were brought to the alter, through doors that were never locked. It was sold the following spring to the Salvation Army (later remodeled into a home not far from its origin). The "old" was moved in good time to allow for clean-up for the dedication of the "new". All traces of its existence was erased and for good measure the remains of the cement rubble from the barn was buried in the old basement as well. The removal of the old church ended an era and was the start of another.

For the second time St. John's was able to have a church dedicated for the service in Christ. The dedication performed by President, Pastor John Zimmerman bringing with him the well-wishes from the Synod and supplemented by Pastor Fritz Rehn in German, for the forenoon service. In the afternoon Pastors Louis Schoepp and Otto Frank conducted the service. The new church and a pleasant day (May 24, 1964) brought out many friends joining the congregation in celebrating the festival. Like before, not all work had been completed but gradually the items were checked off.

It was still while Pastor Goos (1975) was in the Ardrossan pulpit that the comfortable pews replaced the "straight laced" ones. It came about in a rather innovative way, by members and non-members complementing the purchase; donating the price of a pew in memory of loved ones. The acknowledgement of such pews were recognized by a small engraved plaque. Altogether fourteen pews were purchased, with the old ones donated to the Warburg congregation. Other assets accumulated during the years but it was on October 25, 1981 that the con-



temporary light oak chancel furnishings (Baptismal Font, Alter, Pulpit and Lecturn) were dedicated by Bishop Sjoberg. He also performed the inauguration of the present Pastor Roy Pudrycki that same Sunday.



*1963 Building of new church.*

Pastor Querengesser, (1975-78) being from the "old guard" maintained that everyone should have the opportunity to receive the word of God from the sermon, even the Sunday School children. So a slight addition came about, with a sermonette for the children before they left the assembly for classes. This changed but little when Pastor Pudrycki and his guitar came in 1978. Sermonette is now an exchange - "Kids Talk" with an occasional sing song.

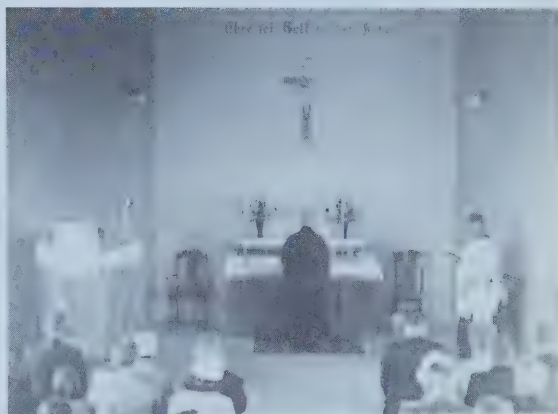
For a little country congregation St. John's attracted a variety of people that dropped in for a visit. Most notable of these from far away was Dr. Tappert from the Board of American Missions, New York, when he came to see how the mission parish was faring and was pleased with what he saw. Two Pastors came from Europe, Pastors Lemke in 1948 and Neugebauer '83. Pastor Lemke who came from Zhitomer, Wolhynia drew the attention of the older members of the congregation who had memories of that area. While Pastor Neugebauer who was from East Germany interested the more recent arrived members. Each minister described in detail the conditions of church and congregations in their respective areas.

The Missionaries came. There was Ken Verasammy from Guiana ('80) Kleiner ('83) from India, and Marcia Vaala ('84) on Peru, each one narrating and showing slides of those countries.

Some interesting evenings were spent with Pastors Roy Schultz and Paul Scot from L.A.M.P. and Gib

Mueller from L.I.M.E. showing the need of support from areas, much closer to home and most often overlooked. And from "across the tracks" came Chaplains P. Bablitz ('80) from Drumheller prison and Alf Bell ('83) from the Edmonton Institution bringing with them some model prisoners, creating enough interest that some church members returned a visit to the Edmonton center in 1983.

Included in the highlights down the years were the mass visitations, when guests and pastors attended the Northern Alberta Conferences in 1976 and again in '81 held at St. John's Ardrossan. And all those Pastors invited to preach at St. John's Mission and Anniversary festivals. Also not forgotten the ever-ready Pastor Kublick who at the drop of a hat was prepared to occupy the pulpit in vacation time or other occasions.



*May 24, 1964 Dedication of the new church.*

Through the years, Ardrossan had always been receiving, but there was action within. Whether credit can be taken or even the right to acclaim any credit for the two young men who were prepared to follow Christ. They went off to college to study for the ministry. Randall Hirsch was ordained in 1981 and serves St. Peter's, Millet and Resurrection, Calmar, Alberta. George Friedrich was ordained in 1982 and has a parish in High River, Alberta.

Now 50 years later, unfolding like a sequel, the congregation is in the process of building again, but not like it was when the pioneers had feet of clay. Clay that disappeared so gradually no one can pinpoint when it came about.

The county (meaning personal) in their wisdom found it necessary to improve the roads, especially after 1947 when the oil boom hit Alberta. The industry moved in, the subdivisions spread out, schools were built, and buses were purchased. At first the

main roads were upgraded, like the Wye road (in the '50's). By about 1963-'67 oiled roads were quite common, with the final wrap-ups close to 1972. (dates are all guesstimates) Councilors don't know, officials don't know, foremen don't know, school bus drivers don't know and the people don't know when the change exactly came about. They all know there is a two to four inch coating of heavy oil and gravel separating the sticky clay from the traffic. Not all parts of the county was subjected to these conditions. This area was. The clay lays dormant underneath but strikes with all its resources on every occasion when it is exposed.

Members live much further from church than in former times, now that travel is so much easier. It is amazing that an area of the county can change it's appearance in so short a period. When the pioneers of the congregation first came here they used roads

that were little better than paths and on some road allowances there was not even that.





# Zion Lutheran Congregation

*by Alfred Banick and Henry Pretzlaff*

The Fultonvale congregation had its beginning when Pastor H. Luetkehoelter assembled Lutheran Christians in the Fultonvale district, fifteen miles south-east of Edmonton to the north and south of Highway 14. Here he found many members who were immigrants or descendants of immigrants from Germany and eastern European countries.

Pastor Luetkehoelter held the first house service in the beginning of 1940. During the summer months student Pastor F. Gartner held house services. His mode of travel was by bicycle.



*1952 - Zion Lutheran Church*

*Back: Ernest Bittner, Pastor Hanneman, Marlene Fetzer, Front: Inga Meyer, Ruth Bittner, Doris and Ruth Fetzer.*

The first meeting and elections were held at the home of Mr. G. Lindner on March 23, 1941. The first officers were Julius Hahn, Gustav Lindner and Alfred Banick as secretary-treasurer. At this meeting it was decided to call the church, Zion Lutheran Church. The membership consisted of 14 families and 2 single unmarried individuals. During the summer months they continued to worship in homes while plans were being made to build a church. With \$142.17 in pledges from members and a grant of \$300. from the American Mission Board, they financed the church building. On June 2, 1941 three children were confirmed at the Julius Neumann residence. In the fall of 1941, the building of the

church on skids was begun on the northwest corner of Julius Hahn's farm. The shell of the building was completed on November 23, 1941. On November 30, 1941, the first service in the new church was held by Pastor Luetkehoelter. During the winter of 1941-42 the inside of the church was completed.

On September 24, 1941, Pastor G. Weise held his first service at Fultonvale. On February 9, 1942, the first child was baptised, Margaret Bittner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Bittner.



*Festival at Fultonvale.*

To raise monies for the church, several basket and pie socials were organized by the Ladies Club. The ladies would decorate and fill baskets with all sorts of good things to eat. The baskets were then auctioned off by Gus Lindner. The contents of the baskets were then shared with the buyer and the lady who prepared the basket.

The church was dedicated on September 27, 1942, by Pastor Luetkehoelter. On January 7, 1943, a permanent location was purchased one mile north of the temporary location or a half a mile south of Highway 14 to where it was moved.

On January 14, 1943, Pastor Weise conducted the first marriage ceremony of Leonard Martin and Florence Spitzer. Pastor Weise left the congregation in November of 1944. The church was then served by Pastor J. Gnauk and Pastor E.W. Grober. An organ was purchased on July 29, 1944 and was paid off in the following months. Pastor Lehmann served the congregation from August 1944, until May 1945. Various pastors held services until Pastor P. Hanneman held his service in August 4, 1946.

Due to members moving, the membership of Zion Lutheran church declined to four families by 1953. By 1955, the congregation grew to 12 families.

During this time the task of refinishing the church was undertaken by members. The job of painting the outside was shared by individuals, each painting separate sides. A new entrance was also added, in the form of a vestibule.

The membership again weakened and by 1959 the church closed its doors. Some of the members amalgamated with Ardrossan and others went elsewhere. In the year 1961, the church and land sold for \$2200. The monies received went to St. John's Lutheran Church Ardrossan to help finance a new building there.

Although the life of Zion Lutheran Church was a mere 23 years the memories of good times such as; the workings of the Ladies Club, the many church functions, especially Christmas programs conducted by candlelight, will linger in the hearts and minds of all members who attended this country church.



# Die Geschichte der Evangelisch Lutherischen St. Johannis Gemeinde zu Ardrossan

von Julius Birkholz

Wenn wir an diesem Tage Rückblick halten, sind wir besonders froh und dankbar und stimmen an: "Bis hierher hat uns Gott gebracht!" Von ungefähr Siebzig Jahren, als die ersten deutschen Lutheraner sich in dieser Gegend ansiedelten; aus Deutschland, Polen und Wolhynien um hier Arbeit zu finden, was aber kaum möglich war. Auch war man mit der Absicht gekommen Land zu erwerben, und so kam es dann auch.

Diese Einwanderer gingen auf das Land nicht zu weit östlich von Edmonton, in der Gegend von Ardrossan. Hier bildete sich dann bald eine deutsch-lutherische Ansiedlung. Man war ja nicht gewohnt ohne Kirche und Gottesdienst zu sein. Gerade an den Sonntagen wenn man sich besuchte, gedachte man vergangener Zeiten und sprach von den schönen Gottesdiensten in der alten Heimat. Man erinnerte sich an all das, was drüben in reichen Massen gewesen war, und was oft nicht genug geachtet wurde. So erwachte der Gedanke, ob es wohl möglich wäre auch hier Gottesdienst zu halten. Der Gedanke wurde verwirklicht und es kamen von Zeit zu Zeit Pastoren aus Nachbargemeinden mit Gottes Wort und Sakrament auf dieses Missionsfeld; so wie Pastor M. Ruccius, Pastor W. Wahl und Pastor K. Freitag aus Süd-Edmonton. Aber Konfirmation, Trauung und Beerdigungen vermisste man sehr. Auf lange war das aber nicht befriedigend und man wollte eine eigene Kirche haben. Man hatte ja auch schon früher versucht eine Gemeinde zu organisieren, bekam aber immer nicht genug Mitglieder.

Im Monat June wurde eine Gemeindeversammlung berufen, um zu beraten wie gebaut werden soll und wie einen Baumeister zu wählen. Pastor H. Lütkeholter schlug Herrn Johann Hildebrandt von Süd Edmonton als Baumeister vor. Herr Hildebrandt meinte, der Bau käme am billigsten, wenn die Gemeindeglieder selber Bäume fällen und dan zur Bretter zuschneiden liessen.

Der Vorstand der Gemeinde besorgte dann den Erlaubnisschein von der "Canadian Pacific Railroad Company, Edmonton", der \$30. kostete, auf sec. 34, T 51, R 21, w 4 am Cooking Lake Bäume zu fällen für die Kirche. Im Spätsommer 1936 wurde mit dem Bau begonnen. Vier fusstiefe Löcher wurden mit einem Handbohrer gebohrt, die Ecken wurden



1936 - St. John's Lutheran Church and congregation.

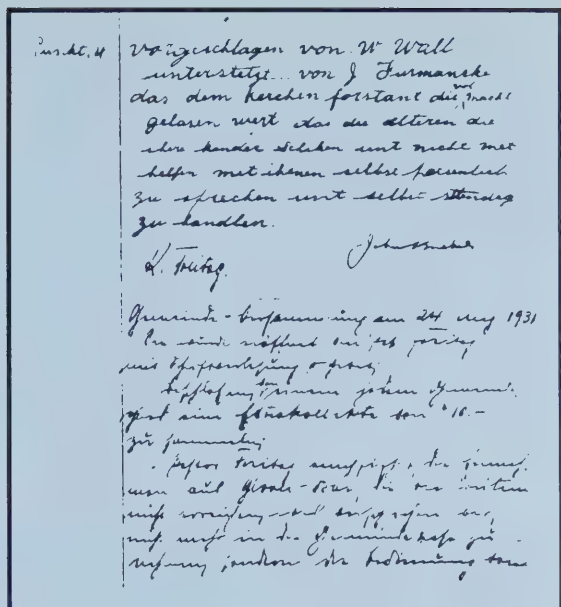
gegraben und mit Beton gefüllt, die Betonsäulen standen drei fuss über der Erde. Im November begann die Arbeit des Bäumesuchens im Walde am Cooking Lake. Mühsame Arbeit im kniehohen Schnee.

Am 2. November 1936 wurde der Friedhof eingeweiht und auch gleich gebraucht für Erwin Birkholz, der sein Leben in einem Hausfeuer am 29. Oktober verlor. Am 16. November 1936 wurde die St. Johannis Lutherische Gemeinde anerkannt, am 23. November der Titel registriert für die drei Acker Land. Im Dezember wurden die Baumstämme zu Brettern gesägt von Herrn C. Drader für \$30. Am 26. Dezember, zweiter Weihnachtstag, nachmittags wurde schon der Eckstein gelegt, an einem sehr stürmischen kalten Tage.

**Jährliche Hohepunkte** 1937. Gleich anfang Januar kam jeder freiwillig zur Arbeit und half Herrn Hildebrandt beim Kirchenbau. Die Kirche wurde auf







die Betonsäulen aufgebaut. Die Arbeit ging sehr langsam voran, weil es Winter war, und kein Geld in der Kasse war. Im gleichen Monat wurde von den Gemeindegliedern \$189. eingesammelt für den Bau. Von einer Frau aus New York, USA wurden für den Bau ein Geschenk von \$200. bekommen. Der Altar wurde von Herrn Hildebrandt gebaut und von der Spruce Grove St. Matthäus Gemeinde bezahlt - \$35. Vater und Julius Hahn schenkten der Gemeinde ein Pump-Orgel. Frau Lütkehölder spielte dann die Orgel in jedem Gottesdienst. Robert Rinas schenkte zwei Altar Stühle.

Am 23. Mai wurde die Kirche feierlich eingeweiht von Pastor Lütkehölder und Pastor R. Krisch von Ellerslie. Die Ardrossan Gemeinde bekam dann den Namen "St. Johannis" und wurde Glied der Manitoba Synode, die zu der Zeit 40 Jahre alt war. Der Präsident war Pastor Theodor Hartig, Während der Sommer Monate kamen noch allerhand Geschenke; von den Gemeinden St. Matthäus in Spruce Grove, der Dreieinigkeits-Gemeinde in Süd-Edmonton und die Gemeinde Immanuel, Rosenthal. Am 5. June wurde die erste Taufe vollzogen, Tochter von Frau und Herrn Julius Hahn.

Am 12. Oktober wurden Ziegeln für den Schornstein für \$15. gekauft und am 31. Oktober war der Schornstein schon fertig gebaut. Dem Maurer von Süd-Edmonton wurde \$15. für Arbeit bezahlt.

1938 Wurde die erste Jahresversammlung in der Kirche abgehalten. Die ersten Konfirmanden konfirmiert; Olga Beck, Walter Busenius, Eric Felske, Hilda Trawny und Heinz Stucke.

1939 Wurden 6 Bänke bestellt bei der Seidler

Werkstatt, für 13 Dollar eine Bank. Der gesamte Preis war 78 Dollar. Es wurde nur einmal im Monat Gottesdienst gehalten während der Winter Monate.

Im Jahre 1928 kam Pastor K. Freitag nach Süd Edmonton und übernahm die Dreieinigkeits Gemeinde. Er versorgte auch Sonntag nachmittags dieses Missionsfeld in Ardrossan. In der Zeit von 1927-1931 war eine der grossen Einwanderungswellen in Kanada. Es liessen sich einige Familien und Junggesellen in Ardrossan und Umgebung nieder. Die meisten kamen aus Polen. So war das Lutheraner Häuflein auf diesem Missionsfeld etwas gewachsen, und es bestand die Aussicht grösser zu werden. Man besprach mit Pastor Karl Freitag am 19. April 1932, im Hause von Theodor Lueders, ernstlich eine Gemeinde zu gründen. Von diesen 16 Familien, die hier zu der Zeit angesiedelt waren, bestätigten 12 Familien mit eigenhändiger Unterschrift eine evangelische lutherische Gemeinde zu gründen. Die Namen dieser 12 sind: Theodor Lueders, Gustav Beck, Julius Anders, Wilhelm Felske, Julius Birkholz, Emil Jait, Daniel Werner, Wilhelm Busenius, Emil Wendlandt, August Seidlitz, Adolf Mike und Adolf Werner.(1) Alle anderen fürchteten die Kosten und kehrten deswegen den Unterschreibern den Rücken. In der "Depression" war es schwer eine Kirche zu bauen. Pastor Karl Freitag hielt weiterhin Gottesdienst in einem leerstehendem Haus, dem Eigentum von Wilhelm Felske. Pastor Karl Freitag verließ 1934 die Süd Edmonton Gemeinde. Pastor Heinrich Lütkehölder folgte dem Ruf nach Süd Edmonton und versorgte auch die Ansiedler in Ardrossan mit Gottes Wort und Sonntagsschule, immer Sonntags nachmittag in der Glen-Garden Schule. Das Pastor Gehalt war sehr gering: \$65.55 im ersten Jahr, andere Dienstleistungen drei Dollar. Im Herbst 1935 berief Pastor H. Lütkehölder eine Gemeinde-Versammlung und ermutigte die Leute mit dem Bau einer Kirche zu beginnen. Es war auch dann noch schwer einen Dollar zu bekommen. Der Pastor meinte, er helfe mit, so gut er kann. Vielleicht bekommen wir etwas Hilfe vom Vereinigten Lutherischen Divisions-Sekretär der Mission durch Dr. E.A. Tappert in New York. Die Leute fassten dann Mut und willigten ein. Es begann die Suche nach einem Grundstück. Im Frühjahr 1936 wurde ein schönes Grundstück ausgesucht an der "Wye Road," westlich von der Glen-Garden Schule S.E. Sec. 26, T 52, R 22 w 4.

Da aber zwei Familien in der Nähe vom Cooking Lake angesiedelt waren, und es für sie weit zu fahren war mit Pferd und "Buggy" (leichter Wagen), so wurde dann besprochen wenn es möglich ist im Mittelpunkt zu bauen. Ein anderes Angebot wurde

kostenfrei vorgeschlagen auf der Nord-Ost Ecke von N.E. sec 11, T 52, R 22, w4 - eine halbe Meile südlich von der heutigen Kirche. Auch dieses schlug fehl. Nicht genug Platz für Kirche, Pastor Haus und Friedhof. Und nebenan war eine Wiese unter Wasser.

Es wurde dann bei der "British Dominion" Land Companie angefragt, um drei Acker Land für eine Kirche zu kaufen. Diese Landgesellschaft verlangte \$10.00 pro Acker. So wurde von jeder Familie drei Dollar einkassiert und im Mai 1936 drei Acker Land gekauft an der Nord-West Ecke S.W. sec. 13, T 52, R 22, w 4, wo jetzt die Kirche steht.

**1940** Wurde der Keller unter der Kirche ausgegraben. Es war eine mühsame wochenlange Arbeit. Die Erde war so hart ausgetrocknet, daß man kräftige Männer brauchte die Pickhacke zu schwingen und auch Pastor Lütkehölter stand hier seinen Mann. Er ließ nicht nach, bis die Arbeit fertig war. Für die Sommermonate bekam Pastor Lütkehölter einen Studenten aus dem Seminar in Saskatoon, F. Gärtner, der dann die Gottesdienste hielt. Er besuchte auch die lutherische Gruppe in Fultonvale und hielt auch Gottesdienste in den Häusern. Im Herbst trat Pastor Lütkehölter wieder ein und sorgte dafür, daß die Treppe zum Erdgeschoss der Kirche fertig wurde. Auch besorgte der Pastor einen alten Kohlenofen (furnace), der von der Firma Glaser Brothers aufgestellt wurde.

**1941** Bekamen wir den ersten eigenen Seelsorger, Pastor Gerhard Weise, der am 27. Juli hier von Pastor H. Lütkehölter ordiniert und eingesetzt wurde. Pastor G. Weise bediente auch die Lutherische Gemeinde in Fultonvale, abwechselnd vormittags und nachmittags. Am 17. Oktober kam ein Geschenk von Dr. Tappert aus New York von \$250. Die Gemeinde Ardrossan kaufte ein unfertiges Haus von A. Werner (3) vier Meilen entfernt, für \$275. Es wurde dann zum Kirchenplatz gezogen und renoviert für das Pastorhaus. Am 10. Oktober borgte die Gemeinde \$500. von der Missionsbehörde, New York. Das Geld wurde für fünf Jahre zinsfrei geliehen. Nach fünf Jahren wurde es mit sechs prozent verzinst. Mit dem Geld wurde das Pastorhaus renoviert und Material für eine Autogarage gekauft. Alles andere Geld wurde für die Kirche verwendet.

Im Herbst gründete Pastor Weise den Frauen-Verein. In diesem Jahre wurde auch die Zions Lutherische Gemeinde gegründet. Im Herbst wurde das Kirchengebäude angefangen und am 28. November war der Rohbau fertig. Die erste Andacht wurde am 30. November gehalten.

**1942** Am 29. Dezember um sieben Uhr abends wurde die erste Trauung in der Kirche von Pastor

Weise vollzogen. Siegmund Schilman und Irma Berndt waren das Brautpaar. Im Herbst brannte die Autogarage ab. Das Auto wurde bei Laternenlicht mit Benzin gefüllt und fing Feuer. Auch wurde ein Brunnen gegraben von Leonard Platske, 2.5' x 3.5', 75 zent pro Fuss. Die Breterverschalung "cribbing" für den Brunnen war ein Geschenk von Emil Wendlandt.

Es wurde Material für sechs Kirchenbänke gekauft und diese kostenlos hergestellt von Gustav Adam. Die Kanzel und das Lesepult baute Gustav Adam und A. Missal machte die Liedertafel und den Taufstein. Das Gehalt für Pastor Weise betrug \$16. im Monat. Auch wurde der Posaunenchor von A. Missal gegründet.



*1942 Young people*

*Back Row: Mrs. Weise, Wanda Beck Second: Lydia Stucke, Hilda Felske, and Pastor G. Weise*

Im Frühjahr schenkte jemand (unbekant) der Kirche \$50 um noch fünf Acker land zu kaufen. Der ganze Kircheneigentum ist nun acht Acker

**1943** Im Dezember verlies Pastor G. Weise die Ardrossan Gemeinde. Er folgte dem Ruf nach Dresden, North Dakota. Pastor H. Lütkehölter half der Ardrossan Gemeinde wieder mit Bedienung aus. In diesem Sommer wurde der Fussboden im Erdgeschoss der Kirche mit Beton ausgegossen. Die Bewirtung am Missionsfest wurde von nun an im Erdgeschoss der Kirche abgehalten. Die Autogarage wurde wieder aufgebaut.

**1944** Am 16. Januar hielt Pastor E.W. Grober eine Probe-Andacht, dafür wurden ihm drei Dollar gezahlt. Vom 12. Dez. 1943 bis Juli 1944 wurden \$79. an Pastor H. Lütkehölter ausgezahlt. Im Juli kam



dann Pastor H.E. Lehmann und hielt am 5. August den ersten Gottesdienst. Pastor Lehmann gründete den Sängerkhor.

**1945** Wegen Krankheit konnte Pastor Lehmann nur 10 Monate bis zum 15. Mai hier wirken. Pastor H. Lütkehölder übernahm die Gemeinde wieder. Er konnte sie nicht verlassen, weil er sie gegründet hatte. Sie war ihm so lieb und er sorgte dafür, dass wir wieder einen eigenen Pastor bekamen. Pastoren aus Nachbargemeinden sollten jeden Sonntag nachmittag in Ardrossan aushelfen. Pastor H. Lütkehölder bekam wieder einen Studenten aus dem Seminar in Saskatoon. Dieser Student, Singer, bediente die Gemeinde mit Gottes Wort nur während der Sommermonate. Im Herbst übernahm Pastor Lütkehölder wieder die Gemeinde. Für jede Dienstleistung wurden ihm drei Dollar bezahlt.



*Church Picnic*

**1946** Im Juli wurde Pastor Paul Hanneman eingesetzt. Es wurde am Haus angebaut für Pastor Hanneman. Ein Stall wurde auch gebaut; gross genug für ein Pferd, zwei Kühe und zwei dutzend Hühner. Im Herbst trocknete der handgegrabene Brunnen aus. Ein neuer Brunnen wurde gestossen, ein Loch zwei Zoll im Durchmesser und 250 Fuss tief, für einen Dollar pro Fuss von Herb Busenius. Dafür wurden von jeder Familie \$10. einkassiert. In dieser Zeit wurde auch das Briefumschlag-System eingeführt. Pastor Hanneman war immer zufrieden mit dem Gehalt. (\$450. in diesem Jahr). Er bediente auch Fultonvale abwechselnd am Vormittag oder Nachmittag. Dafür zahlte Fultonvale \$40. im Jahr.

**1947** Englischer Gottesdienst wurde eingeführt, immer am letzten Sonntag im Monat. Auch wurde zum ersten Mal das Missionsopfer an die Mission abgeschickt. Der Pastor Pension Plan wurde angenommen, die Gemeinde bezahlte acht Prozent

der Pastor vier Prozent vom Pastorgehalt.

**1948** In diesem Jahr wurde ein Staketenzaun entlang der Strasse gebaut. Der Graben vor der Kirche wurde eingeebnet für einen Autoparkplatz. Das Pastorengelt wurde von \$450. auf \$800. im Jahr erhöht.



*June 1948 - Band playing for Mission Fest*

**1949** Elisabeth Kruger aus Josephburg, eine Lehrerin in der Douglas Englische Schule, half Pastor Hanneman in der Sonntagsschule aus. Sie war die erste Lehrerin für die Sonntagsschule.

**1950** Am 2. Juni feierte die Gemeinde mit dem Pastor und Frau Hanneman ihr 25 jähriges Hochzeits-Jubiläum. Im Oktober wurde auch Fultonvale von der Missionsunterstützung gestrichen, die \$600. im Jahre betrug. Das Pastorengelt wurde dann von \$800. auf \$1,500. erhöht.

**1951** Das Gehalt für Pastor Hanneman war noch etwas zu gering, so ging er nebenbei arbeiten um sein Einkommen aufzubessern.

**1952** In diesem Jahr war die Ardrossan Gemeinde schuldenfrei. Es kam zum Einverständnis zwischen Gemeinde und Pastor, dass der Pensionsplan von beiden Seiten zu gleichen Teilen bezahlt wird: sechs Prozent vom Pastor und sechs Prozent von der Gemeinde.

**1953** Englische Kirchenbücher wurden gekauft. Die Gemeinde zahlte für den Pastor und den Delegierten für die Synoden-Konferenz in Saskatoon je \$25.

**1954** Die Gemeinde legte Starkstrom in die Kirche und das Pastorenhaus. Auf der Synodenkonferenz machte Pastor Sedo den Vorschlag, dass die Ardrossan-Gemeinde wegen Pastoren mangels zu Ellerslie oder New Sarepta beitreten solle. Die Gemeinde Ardrossan nahm den Vorschlag nicht an.

**1955** Am 17. Juni wurde im Erdgeschoss der Kirche eine Jugendgruppe von Pastor Hanneman organisiert: Präsident - Erna Widmann, Vize-

präsident - Audry Beck, Sekretär - Elenore Busenius.

1956 Das Pastorengehalt wurde auf \$1,800. (\$150. monatlich) erhöht.

1957 Die Jugendgruppe versammelte sich unter Leitung von A. Missal und Emilie McKay zu einem Familienabend in der Wye Hall, um Geld für den Bau eines Autoparkplatzes aufzubringen.

1958 Wurde ein Autoparkplatz an der Südseite der Kirche vom "County of Strathcona" geschaffen. Die Firma "Twin Bridges" stellte den Kies und den Lastwagen kostenlos. Bill Laiss stellte seine freie Zeit zur Verfügung und brachte den Kies zum Kirchenplatz.

1959 Pastor P. Hanneman verzog nach Fort Saskatchewan und diente von dort aus weiterhin der Gemeinde Ardrossan. Alle Gebäude in Ardrossan wurden dann vermietet; das Haus, der Stall und die Autogarage. Auch wurde angefragt, ob sich die Zions-Gemeinde in Fultonvale mit uns vereinigen wolle.

1960 Am 22. April trat die Zions-Gemeinde Fultonvale zur St. Johannis Gemeinde Ardrossan bei. Pastor Paul Hanneman feierte mit der Gemeinde sein 40 jähriges Amts-Jubiläum. Pastor F. Lenz, Präsident der Northern Alberta Distrikt Konferenz brachte Glückwünsche von der Manitoba Synode.

1961 Mehrere Glieder wurden in die St. Johannis Gemeinde aufgenommen. Familie Paul Grams, Herrn und Frau John Rose, Herrn und Frau Bill Laiss.

1962 Am 25. und 26. - April wurde die letzte Konferenz der Manitoba Synode in Winnipeg gehalten. Die Zions-Gemeinde in Fultonvale ist einverstanden, ihr ganzes Kircheneigentum an die St. Johannis Gemeinde zu überschreiben. Am 15. Oktober wurde dann das Kirchenland in Fultonvale vom Kirchen-Vorstand der Kirchengemeinde St. Johannis - A. Missal, J. Birkholz, A. Banik - an W. Adam für \$2,200. verkauft. Das Geld wurde in den Kirchenbaufond eingezahlt. Der Stall wurde an Erwin Berndt für \$330. verkauft.

1963 Die erste Alberta Synoden Konferenz wurde in der St. Johannis Gemeinde 108 Ave. & 96 Street in Edmonton gehalten. Der erste Präsident war Dr. John Zimmerman.

Ein neuer Holzzaun wurde um den Friedhof errichtet, aus 2" x 4" und 2" x 6". Auch wurde der Zaun gleich angestrichen. Da die Kirche reparaturbedürftig war, wurde auf der Jahresversammlung nach Kostenvoranschlägen gefragt, um die Kirche anzuheben und neue Grundmauern aus Beton zu giessen. Eine weitere Versammlung wurde einberufen, um die Kostenvoranschläge zu öffnen. Der niedrigste war für \$10,538. Es wurde eine neue



*In 1962 Airmen Visit St. John's Lutheran Church. Rev. Paul Hanneman was honored to have eight German Air Force Officers serving with N.A.T.O. in the far north of Canada, as their guests on Christmas Day.*

*They attended the service and contributed to the program by singing Christmas carols. After Church service the Air Force Officers were honored guests for Christmas dinner at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Julius Birkholz.*

*When they said farewell they could not find enough words to express thanks to their hosts for the wonderful hospitality and friendliness of the Canadian people. The Officers also express their appreciation of the efforts of the Canadian Government which made it possible for them to enjoy a Merry Christmas in Canada.*

Kirche geplant, und abermals Kostenvoranschläge eingeholt. Die Grösse der Kirche sollte 32 mal 56 Fuss sein. Die Preise gingen ein von \$16,900. bis 25,000. Als alle Kostenvoranschläge vorlagen, wurde mit Zetteln abgestimmt, ob die alte Kirche repariert oder eine neue Kirche gebaut werden solle. Das Resultat war: 29 Stimmen für eine neue Kirche und 6 Stimmen für Reparaturen an der alten Kirche.

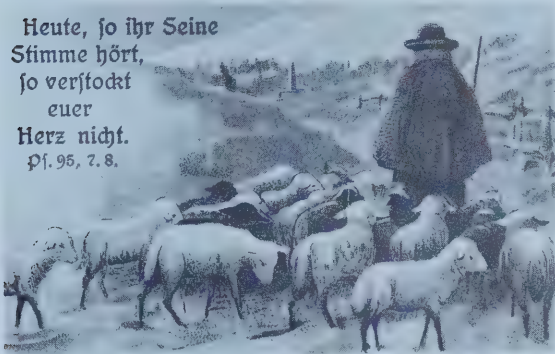


*Was der Mensch sät, das wird er ernten @af. 6, 7.*



Ein Baukomitee wurde gewählt. Es wurden Vorschläge gemacht, wie gebaut werden sollte und wieviel Geld jede Familie aufbringen könnte. Die meisten versprachen \$150. Der Gesamtbetrag war \$12,450. A. Missal zeichnete die Kirchenpläne. Der Bauunternehmer Otto Pretzlaff aus Süd Edmonton bekam den Auftrag, den Rohbau für den Preis von \$7,879. aufzubauen. Es dauerte bis zum 6. Oktober, bis der erste Spatenstich getan wurde. Am 10. November konnte schon der Eckstein gelegt werden, mit einer feierlichen Amtshandlung. Jeder sollte so viel freiwillige Arbeit wie möglich leisten. A. Missal verlegte die elektrischen Leitungen unentgeltlich, nur das Material wurde gekauft. Art Adam machte die Klempnerarbeiten (Plumbing) ohne Bezahlung. Er baute auch die Schränke im Erdgeschoss. Die Frauen der Gemeinde zahlten für das Material. Jedes Mitglied tat das seine. Noch im selben Jahr (1963) am Sonntag vor Weihnachten, konnte der erste Gottesdienst gehalten werden. Da unser Kapital für den Bau nicht ausreichte, wurden im Oktober \$4,000. von der Imperial Bank, Süd Edmonton geborgt.

Heute, so ihr Seine  
Stimme hört,  
so verstockt  
euer  
Herz nicht.  
ps. 95, 7. 8.



**1964** Im April wurde die alte Kirche an die Heilsarmee (Salvation Army) für \$300. verkauft. Der Betonboden im Erdgeschoss wurde gegossen von O.K. Construction für \$146.25. Das Gelände um die Kirche wurde eingeebnet, so dass am 24. Mai die Kirche eingeweiht werden konnte. Der Festgottesdienst wurde vom Präsident der Synode Dr. John Zimmermann und Pastor Fritz Rehn am Vormittag gehalten, und am Nachmittag von Pastor Louis Schoepp und Pastor Otto Frank. Der Posaunenchor und der Sängerkhor verschönerten das Fest. Die Kirche war gefüllt von Menschen bei dem schönen Wetter.

**1965** Das Kreuz wurde draussen an der Westwand angebracht. Die Stuck Arbeit (Stucco) an der Kirche wurde von G. Roy für \$475. ausgeführt. Alle Holzteileaussen wurden mit Farbe angestrichen. Auch wurde der Fussboden mit linoleum Platten

ausgelegt von A. Neitch für \$800.

**1966** Einhundert Kubik "yards" schwarzer Erde wurden von Clarence Hirsch zur Verfügung gestellt und er erhielt eine Quittung dafür. Die Firma "Twin Bridges" stellte wieder den Lastwagen kostenlos zur Verfügung und Willi Laiss brachte die Erde ohne Bezahlung zur Kirche.

**1967** Vier Lampen für das Kirchenschiff wurden gekauft. Ein paar neue Familien traten der Gemeinde bei. Im selben Jahr unternahm die "Western Canada Synode" das Projekt Mulhurst Camp, B.C. Studentenheim und ein Altersheim. Die Projekte wurden von der Johannis Gemeinde unterstützt.

**1968** Erdgas wurde in die Kirche verlegt für \$511.71. Der Propangastank wurde an "Blue Flame" für \$400. verkauft.

**1969** Am 16. April wurde die Wasserleitung für Kirche und Haus installiert. \$1,500. wurden gezahlt, um das Erdgeschoss fertig zu bauen.

**1970** Eine Jugendgruppe wurde gegründet von Olga Felske und Hilda Grams. Am 16. März wurde das Licht am Autoparkplatz vor der Kirche aufgestellt, für \$135. Am 1. November wurde Pastor Hannemans 50 jähriges Predigtamt in der Kirche gefeiert, mit Bischof Sjoberg, Pastor E. Kublik, Pastor L. Schoepp und Pastor Otto Frank. Im Monat Dezember wurde von "Eatons" eine elektrische Orgel für \$1,525. gekauft.



**1971** Am 19. Juni, 7:30 abends, wurde eine Jubiläumsfeier für Pastor Paul Hanneman gehalten. Er diente der St. Johannis Gemeinde in Ardrossan für 25 Jahre.

**1972** Wurde die Gemeinde in Ardrossan von verschiedenen Pastoren versorgt. Auch wurde beschlossen, keinen Gottesdienst zu halten, falls die Temperatur unter -20° Fahrenheit fällt. Die Ardrossan Gemeinde sollte mit Mount Olivet, Sherwood Park zusammen gehen. Mit Zettel-

Abstimmung hat die Gemeinde Ardrossan den Vorschlag nicht angenommen.

**1973** Am 1. Juli wurde Pastor Otto Goos von Bischof Sjoberg hier in sein Amt eingeführt. Im August wurde eine Gestetner Maschine für \$300. gekauft.

**1974** Wurde Kies für den Parkplatz für \$250. gekauft. Auch wurde das Glaubensfest "Celebration of Faith" gefeiert.

**1975** Am 27. April wurde die Abschiedsfeier für Pastor und Frau Otto Goos im Erdgeschoss der Kirche gehalten. Einige Pastoren waren anwesend. Die Gemeinde wurde dann für kurze Zeit von verschiedenen Pastoren bedient.

Am 31. August wurde Pastor Alvin Querengesser von Bischof Sjoberg in sein Amt in der St. Johannis Gemeinde eingeführt. Die Gemeinde kaufte 14 neue Kirchenbänke für \$3,200. Die alten Kirchenbänke wurden an die Lutherische Gemeinde in Warburg verschenkt. Das Telefon wurde in die Kirche installiert. Die Gemeinde bekam einen Regierungszuschuss (Government Grant) in Höhe von \$500. für Friedhof und Gräber.

**1976** Am 20. März wurde die Nord Alberta Pastorkonferenz hier gehalten. Eine Gestetner Schreibmaschine, ein Klavier und ein Staubsauger wurden gekauft für \$2,321.50. Auch wurden Lautsprecher in die Kirche installiert von Reinhard Dunse. Die Kirche wurde eingezäunt mit Stahlrohren.

**1977** Ein neuer Brunnen wurde gestossen von "Green Acres Waterwell". Die Gesamtkosten für dieses Jahr beliefen sich auf \$2,286.

**1978** Am Sonntag den 27. August wurde eine Abschiedsfeier für Pastor Querengesser und seine Frau gehalten. Am 16. Oktober kam Pastor Roy Pudrycki aus der Missouri Synode und übernahm das Amt in dieser Gemeinde. Auf dem Balkon in der Kirche wurde der Flur stufenweise höher gemacht. Ein Rasenmäher (Lawn tractor) wurde für \$900. gekauft.

**1979** Der Zaun um den Friedhof wurde neu angestrichen. An der Südseite wurde ein neuer Zaun aus Maschendraht (Chain Link Fence) aufgestellt. Für den Eingang zum Friedhof wurde ein eisernes Tor für \$174.80 gekauft. An der Wye Road wurde ein Wegweiser für die St. Johannis Gemeinde aufgestellt. Ein Schreibtisch (Office Desk) und ein Stuhl wurden für \$200. gekauft.

**1980** Nichts bemerkenswertes ereignete sich.

**1981** Am 7. März wurde zum zweitenmal die Nord Alberta Distrikt Konferenz der Synode in dieser Gemeinde gehalten. Im Mai wurde 45 jähriges Kirchweihfest gefeiert. Am 14. Juni wurde Pastor

Roy Pudrycki neu gewählt. Im August wurde eine "Baldwin" elektrische Orgel für \$14,500. gekauft. Am 6. September wurde die alte elektrische Orgel an die vereinigte Kirche (United Church) Süd Cooking Lake für \$1,250. verkauft. Im Oktober wurden von Herrn Steinbringer neue Möbel für die Kirche für \$3,750. hergestellt. Der Altar, die Kanzel, der Taufstein, das Lesepult und zwei Liedertafeln wurden am 25. Oktober von Bischof Sjoberg für die Kirche eingeweiht. Am selben Sonntag wurde Pastor Roy Pudrycki vom Bischof in sein Amt eingeführt. Ostlich von der Kirche wurde ein Platz für Sport vom "County of Strathcona" eingeebnet für \$460.

**1982** Im März wurden Verdunklungs-Vorhänge für alle Kirchenfenster für \$2,288. gekauft. Im Oktober wurden die alten Kirchenmöbel an die Victory Lutherische Kirche in Devon verschenkt.



*Old chancel furniture.*

**1983** Am 5. April wurde im Erdgeschoss der Kirche der Fussboden mit Teppich ausgelegt für \$4,029.

**1984** Durch Hagelschlag wurde das Dach der Kirche beschädigt und im August neu gedeckt. Vor dem Eingang der Kirche an der Südseite wurde eine Beton-Plattform gegossen, 20 x 20 Fuss gross. Im Dezember wurden zwei Ventilatoren (Fans) an der Decke der Kirche angebracht, um die Luft zu regulieren, für \$308.26.

Pastoren, die Ardrossan besucht und bedient, waren:

*Pastor Theodor Hartig	1909-1917
*Pastor Wilhelm Wahl	1917-1928
*Pastor Karl Freitag	1928-1934
*Pastor H. Lütkehölder	1934-1945

Kandidat F. Gärtner	Sommer 1940
Student Singer	Sommer 1945

Pastoren in der Gemeinde Ardrossan angestellt waren:

Pastor Gerhard Weise	1941-1943
Pastor H.E. Lehmann	1944-1945
Pastor Paul Hanneman	1946-1972



Pastor Otto Goos	1973-1975
Pastor A. Querengesser	1975-1978
Pastor Roy Pudrycki	1978-

### **Im Glauben Vorwärts In Die Zukunft**

Für die St. Johannis Gemeinde in Ardrossan ist 1986 ein bedeutendes Jahr. Vor 54 Jahren wurde die Gemeinde in Ardrossan gegründet. Vor 49 Jahren wurde unsere Kirche eingeweiht. Davon berichtet dieses Jubiläums Buch.

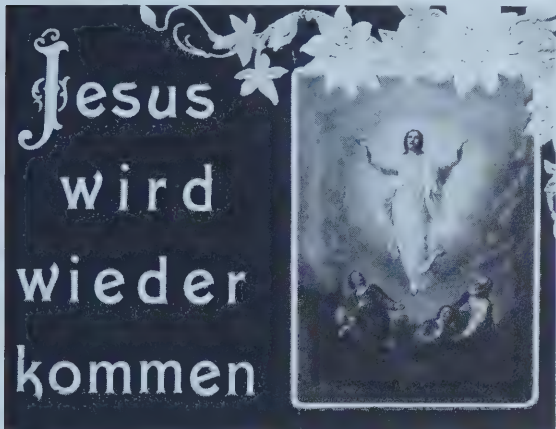
Mögen die heranwachsenden Generationen daraus lernen, dass das Werk, das die Väter einst im Glauben begonnen haben, weiter zu bauen zur Ehre Gottes.

Denn die Sache, für die wir stehen, ist Gottes Sache.

Weil es Seine Sache ist, wird sie nicht untergehen.

\*Pastoren von Dreieingkeits-Gemeinde von Süd Edmonton

Ed. note - 1972-1973 Synode stellte Pastoren für den Sonntäglichen Gottesdienst zu verfügung.



# Auxiliaries

## ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN LADIES AID

### *of the Dedication*

The Ladies Aid was organized as the "Frauen Verein" in 1941, by Pastor G. Weise at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Felske. The meeting began with Pastor Weise reading the portion of the Manitoba Synod Constitution for Ladies Aid Groups. Nine ladies became members. The first president was Mrs. Christina Felske and the first secretary-treasurer was Miss Hilda Felske. The purpose was to gather for Christian fellowship and to serve God by serving others.

Meetings were held in the homes of members the second Sunday of every month with the German language being used. In later years the use of the English and German was combined. All the meetings started with devotions followed by a time for business and closed with hymn singing and prayer. A light lunch would be served by the hostess. This format has been used consistently.

In the early years the men were actively involved by supplying the transportation with horse and buggy or sleigh and sometimes by car if the dirt roads were passable. They also participated in devotions and hymn singing.

As more ladies joined the group it became an important way of communication since there were no telephones to organize church activities.

To raise money the early members gave free-will offerings and in later years monthly dues were collected. Social activities mostly centered around the church with box socials, basket socials, bazars, and bake socials being held at least once a year. The money received from these events was used to make improvements to the church and purchase other necessary supplies.

### *Major Financial Contributions:*

1942	painted interior of church, donated four church pews
1945-46	donated money to help meet church mortgage payments
1950-53	numerous improvements to church and parsonage; including; lumber to finish church basement, painting of church, carpet for chancel area; etc.
1954	resilvering Communion Ware
1957	repair to parsonage - \$200
1961	first new vacuum cleaner for church
1964	building fund for new church - \$1000, stainless steel cuttlery, materials for kitchen plumbing.
1965	floor tile in worship area - \$800, interior of new church - \$470
1966	rug for Chancel area and center aisle - \$558
1969	sound proofing of basement ceiling - \$400, donation towards installation of sewer and water system - \$800
1970	organ fund - \$283
1971	30 stacking chairs
1972	"Nylo" mat for front entrance
1973	10 tables and 25 stacking chairs for church basement
1974	100 cup percolator and 50 china cups
1975	gas stove for kitchen, one church pew with name plate (signifying donor) \$307
1980	industrial vacuum cleaner \$513
1983	donated \$2300 towards purchase of basement carpet
	Many other contributions and purchases have not been mentioned.



1984 - Ladies Aid.

Elfrieda Hoekendorf, Louise Busenius, Elsie Beck, Martha Felske, Eva Friedrich, Elly Hirsch, Frieda Birkholz and Natalie Stucke





1974: Mrs. Natalie Stucke, A charter member.

#### *Activities and Social Events:*

The Ladies Aid usually planned the lunch menu for the church anniversaries held annually in May and the Mission Festivals held later in summer. All the ladies of the congregation participated by contributing the necessary food. As there was no stove in the early years to heat water for coffee it had to be prepared at home. The coffee was put into five gallon cream cans with cream and sugar added. Then the can was wrapped in blankets to keep it warm while taking it to church.

In 1948 the presentations of silver and golden wedding anniversary certificates to church members began. Later plaques were given and became traditional.

Presenting birthday momentos to senior citizens started with Adolf Adam's 82nd birthday in December 1948 and again to Adolph Werner (2) on his 88th birthday in May 1953. Momentos are now presented to senior church members having special birthday celebrations and to all those who are 90 years and older.

In 1953 the ladies began giving memorial donations, flowers or wreaths for deceased congregation members. In the later years they started serving lunch after the funeral, if this was requested by the family.

The ladies participated in the wedding showers organized by the congregation. At first they were held in the homes of church members and later in the basement of the new church.

For many years hospital visits were made, presenting patients with devotional booklets, fruit

baskets, or flowers. This arrangement was later changed to get well cards being sent by mail.

Presenting a Lenten evening film at the church has been a practice of the Ladies Aid since 1958.

In December 1965, a yearly tradition began with visiting church members 75 years and older to present them with fruit baskets and sing Christmas carols.

In 1970 the Ardrossan Lutheran Church Women compiled a cook book of their favorite recipes. The profit from the sale of these books was donated to the church.

The Ladies Aid participated in the special events held at the church honoring Pastor P. Hanneman's ministry. They assisted in preparing meals for the celebration of his 50th year of ordination in 1970 and in his 25th year of ministry at St. John's in 1971. In November 1972, Pastor and Mrs. Hanneman were presented with a plaque at their farewell service.



*Charter members:  
Louise Busenius and Elsie Beck*

A special program honoring the senior citizens of the congregation was held in May 1974 under the leadership of Julianna Pretzlaff. She desired to do something special for her aged mother-in-law, Mrs. Albertina Pretzlaff. The event was expanded to a celebration for all the seniors. The program concluded with each senior receiving a rose in honor of the occasion.

In May 1975, Pastor and Mrs. O. Goos were presented with a framed picture of St. John's church as a farewell gift.

In 1976 and 1977, under the guidance of the Pastor's wife, Mrs. Hildegard Querengesser, the ladies of the congregation participated in making

baby layettes for distribution by Lutheran World Relief.

For Pastor Querengesser's retirement in August 1978 the Ladies presented him a framed picture of the church. A crystal vase was presented to Mrs. H. Querengesser.

Since 1977 the practice of sending yearly donations to Lutheran World Relief and to the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots has been continued.

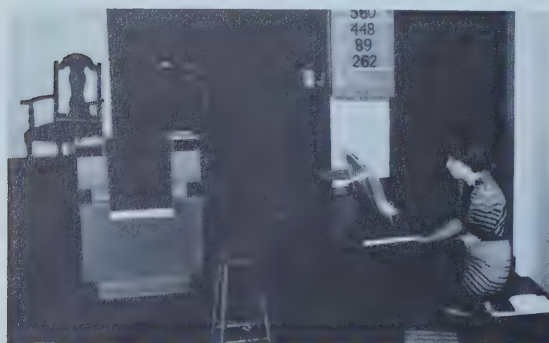
Recently honored were two members of St. John's who have been ordained into the Lutheran ministry; Randall (Randy) Hirsch in May 1981 and George Friedrich in October 1982. Gifts were presented to them in recognition of their commitment.

We are thankful to God for the spiritual guidance and support of our current Pastor R. Pudrycki and for all the pastors who have served at St. John's over the years. Fondly remembered is Pastor Hanneman's many years of musical accompaniment on the violin.



*Mrs. Christine Felske;  
First president*

In 1985 the Ladies Aid still has some charter members. We are thankful for their many years of faithful dedication and for all the women who have contributed to this organization. Many thanks also to all the other people who have supported our group. These, the gifts and service, are our history.



## MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC

### Music I

Psalm 98: 4-6

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody!

With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord!

In the little church was a little organ, a complicated instrument in its simplicity. Organs have been referred to by many names, some only partially correct. They had pedals (pedal organ), actually treadles that were pumped (pump organ.) Ours could have been a Harmonium; only the internal parts indicated whether it was or not. The Harmonium has reeds that are activated by air pressure, whereas the American organ like the one donated by Mr. Hahn, used vacuum. This was the organ that Mrs. Louise Klatt played for nearly 18 years and she got to know all its quirks quite well.

Mrs. Luetkehoelter played it too whenever she came along with her husband. Pastors' wives always seemed to be able to play the organ. When Mrs. Klatt left, Bobby Robinson, a ward of the Hanneman family took it on; mice did too. Church organs were prone to church mice, who never really are poor when they have an organ like this one. There is a lot of nourishment in the glues of the bellows.

When Alan Fingler and his sister Debbie inherited the position of playing the organ (which by then was rather holey) it required a tremendous amount of foot work. They brought their little portable electric organ to play on instead, especially for the children's program. Randy Hirsch got his exercise jogging on the pedals too.

The condition and age of the organ indicated a need for replacement. When Art Adam and Errol Missal took the organs apart for repair, they found more than holes. The plungers were gnawed off, nests of all kinds, some wheat and rice (Rice, the mythical symbol of fertility) maybe the reason there was no shortage of mice. A fund was started in 1969 and with the purchase of a new electric organ and the dedication of it by January 1971 showed how determined the congregation was to resolve the problem. The little organ was sold, later the organ that was received from Fultonvale after the amalgamation, was also sold and replaced with a piano for Sunday School classes in 1976.

The present organ (1981) was chosen for the specials it featured, making playing for the organist and singing by the choir so much easier. If the musical selection was beyond the range of the singer





*Organists: Edith Eggert, Brian Felske, Alan Fingler, Debbie Laiss, James Laiss*

or voices got tired, the transposer gadget accommodated both. Also there was no need for a brass band to play five or six flats (or the reverse situation for a young organist) when a flick of a switch could synchronize the pitch to accompany each other. The presence of the new organ brought forth a battery of young players. Besides Alan, there was Edith Eggert, Brian Felske, Debbie and her brother James Laiss and Betty Rose.

## MUSIC II

Many years passed after St. John's congregation incorporated, until a few people in 1944 felt inspired to sing as a choir, on the insistence of Pastor Lehman. Since then there has always been a nucleus of singers faithful to support a choir. Many lent their voices for a time, but in general the total stabilized at about 12 people.

The first decade the choir sang mainly for Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas and Mothers Day. As time went along and more occasions arose, the choir also sang for special events, recognizing birthdays for seniors, beyond the three-score-and-ten, and also golden-wedding anniversaries.

Faith Temple, a little church in Edmonton, and the Anglican Church in Fort Saskatchewan, were some of the first places where the choir sang as guests. Soon after they joined in a Christmas Carol Program ('68) for district choirs in the Fort Saskatchewan school auditorium. Not only was this an enjoyable experience, it gave the choir an opportunity to listen to other choirs - adjudicating their own performance



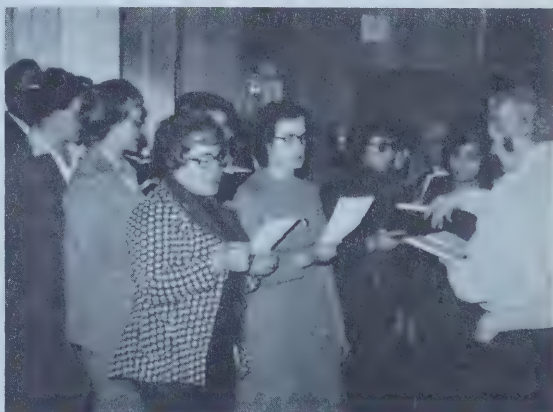
## 1985 - Choir

*Back Row L-R: Paul Felske, Erwin Eggert, Eric Felske, Roy Pudrycki, Errol Missal Middle Row: Edith Eggert, Doris Felske, Selma Eggert, Lil Laiss, Marty Birrell Front Row: Adalbert Missal, Elsie Beck, Martha Felske, Clara Domke, Olga Felske*

in comparison. Together with the band, they put on a program for the patients at the Good Samaritan Hospital in 1974 and again in 1980.

Several yearly events gave the choir an extra chance to exercise their lungs and vocal cords. The candle-light service on Christmas eve was an exhilarating event, setting a glow that lasted throughout the Festive days. And again, when the Edmonton and area Lutheran Churches gathered their choirs for a Sunday afternoon of singing for the Festival of Praise.

The choir enjoyed singing the musical arrangements of Pastor Kublik, and used them at every opportunity. A favorite was enjoyed at a Christmas evening by the American Society for Germans from Russia and the choir also sang this



## 1979 - Choir singing at Garden Hall.

composition in commemoration at the Pastor's funeral.

Not all the singers were proficient in German,

nonetheless selections would be presented in that language, particularly the Christmas carols, which were the favorite music and appreciated by many.

### MUSIC III

It was a distinction bordering on prestige to those immigrants from Europe, to have a brass band in a congregation for complimentary music. Julius Anders thought it essential for Ardrossan, too, regardless of how small the parish was. With this in mind, he went one evening in the summer of 1941 to see Adalbert Missal, who had just moved into the area, to see if he would take on the challenge and form a band. Having received the assurance that he would, Julius now had to round up some players and had fairly good success with this too. The boys that joined the new band were Art and Bill Adam, Erwin Anders, Clarence Busenius, Eric Felske, Clarence and Emil Jait, Frank Klatt, Walter and Benny Platzke and Irving Swonek from the congregation and a couple of fellows from Fultonvale, Adolph Hahn, and Dave Kadatz. Ed Brudneski, Julius Birkholz, Audrey Kadatz and Edmund Siebenthaler came a bit later.

Not many of the would-be bandsmen knew one note from another. They were taken to all the second-hand dealers in Edmonton to select and buy their instruments. Practice was tedious for the boys and it required ingenuity to keep their interest up. Although they created divergent activities of their own to supplement their tooting. Exercises graduated from individual to group practices and group practices meant the Missals table had to be put outside their one-room log house till lunch time. In less than a year their farm hands could manipulate the valves well enough to play the more simple hymns especially arranged for church service. After the organist left, the liturgy was arranged for brass instruments as well. As the boys began to play better they also got more mischievous.

One Sunday morning one of the first "diverse activities" appeared. There was a commotion in the tenor section right after the start of the prelude with one fellow looking down the bell of his instrument and the others in a fit of suppressed laughter; neither one could play. A rubber ball was jammed down in the bell from the last Tuesday's practice. It was quite obvious there had been no extra practice during the week! And it was also a good thing the band was in the little balcony of the little church hidden from view of the congregation!

Any pretext for spontaneous entertainment was acceptable and the royal bumps for birthdays as good a one as any. With a gang this size, birthdays lasted throughout the year. The recipient of such a

"celebration" would make sure the next in line would not escape either. The birthdays resulted in the wood-pile incident, which equaled the cracked ceiling one; neither is yet forgotten.

After one particular practice, the current birthday celebrant dashed out of the house, with the rest of the crew after him, only to lose him in the dark. Figuring he was heading for home, the only alternative to catch this long-legged baritone now was the team, so into the sleigh they piled. With the horses at full speed and the sleigh caroming over beaver dams, they raced down the trail. In the process of the wild ride, they lost the cornet player who was flipped overboard, luckily into a snowbank. After a mile down a road - that would be built sometime in the future - they realized that their quarry could not have gotten this far and turned back. On arriving in the yard they found all the cars had been filled with stove wood. The tables had turned, when they dashed past his hiding place under a spruce tree with low-hanging boughs, in the lane.

In 1950 the band participated in the "Search for Talent" contest at Fort Saskatchewan, a program sponsored by the Associated Canadian Travelers (A.C.T.) on C.F.R.N. radio. They had already performed at functions other than the church picnics and Sunday services. At Fort Saskatchewan they came in first, qualifying for the semi-finals, and later fifth in the finals. It was a memorable program if for nothing else, than the opening remark of the guest speaker. "There are some (contestants) that are good, and there are some that think they are good." The purpose of the A.C.T. program was to collect funds for crippled children and talent was of a secondary nature. The funds which were donated by the public, were credited as votes to the contestants of their choice.

The recognition the band received from playing over radio brought retired and idle musicians to their ranks. While some players moved away, others like Errol Missal, Gordon and Glen Ceretzke, Carmi, Roelle and Marreen took their place. This also expanded their schedule from parades and hospitals to Senior Citizen's homes and other events. Most places like St. Joseph's and Charles Camsell hospitals or the Catholic Nun's home, were straight-forward concerts. The odd time an impromptu act entered a concert. As happened at the Hardisty Senior's home, when a little old lady came up behind the conductor just at the finale of a rousing march and rattled her knuckles down the conductor's back, saying "You are making too much noise." The other seniors didn't appreciate her actions.

The Klondike parade for Edmonton Exhibition in





*Practice - Eric Felske's*

1965 was uneventful. But the Klondike parade in 1973 for the residents of the Good Samaritan hospital had a unique twist - the paraders were the residents themselves. Klondike costumes predominated, with decorated wheelchairs and other conveyances maneuvered by friends and relatives. The parade progressed smoothly with the support of nurses and attendants. The band played lively marches to set the pace. After covering the short route, everyone was invited in for a social tea.



*1949 St. John's Band*

*Back Row L to R Clarence Jait, Herb Anders, Julius Birkholz, Frank Klatt, Clarence Busenius, Adolph Hahn Front; Arthur Adam, Audrey Kadatz, Eric Felske, Walter Platzke, Adalbert Missal.*

The year of parades, Canada's Centennial in 1967, the band marched in towns from Evansburg and Alberta Beach to Camrose. And from Fort Saskatchewan to Ponoka and many other places; not to forget Ardrossan, where they had made their debut. A second and third group of people were now part of the band, including Joan and Ken Busenius, Edith and Harold Eggert, Joedy, Kern, and Virri

Missal and many of their friends from school made a total of some 35 members.

Most parades were exciting, but some had an added attraction. New Sarepta had some particularly anxious moments - 30 minutes before countdown it was discovered the drummer forgot the drumsticks. A 22-mile, fast trip back home saved the situation. At Cooking Lake the problem wasn't so easily overcome, but it did get covered up. The bass player had lost his mouthpiece and needed some persuasion to keep his position in the parade even though he was unable to play. Faking the appearance of a bandsman in complete control, hand covering where the mouthpiece should be and cheeks puffing in time, he never missed a note. In August 1973, the band played for Klondike breakfast, one of the many festivities for the R.C.M.P. 100 Anniversary. On July 1, 1975 they helped celebrate the opening of the Edmonton Coliseum. The itinerary of St. John's band covered a variety of events from the 75th Anniversary of St. John's, Heimthal '68, to the dedication festival of the present church of St. John's, Edmonton.



*The Band at Jasper Place*

After trouping around the country for the summer, the windup for the band was the annual picnic on Twin Island with their immediate families. On one of these picnics a drama unfolded that bears relating. The main character in this case, the Police Chief of Edmonton. It happened during the softball game when a foul ball hit a tiny dog on the lap of a lady spectator on the first base sidelines. From first appearances it looked very much like a dead dog. If it hadn't been for the Chief, it could have been. He put the animal gently on the bench massaging it's ribs and blowing into the nostrils, a simulation of the Kiss Of Life. After what seemed like a long time, it gradually revived. The concern of the moment was a sharp contrast to the carefree scene shortly before, when the Chief was playing second base. He caught and hoisted a 180 pound runner under one arm, waving the other and calling for the ball in a fake attempt to make an out.

As each group of players grew up, got married or moved away another batch would take its place, but of course "all good things come to an end" sometime. After four turnovers of players and fewer replacements coming up, interest dwindled to the extent of ending completely.



*1985 Youth Band Back - Ron Rose, Michelle Hart, Joan Adam, Roy Busenius Middle - Debbie Laiss, Ken Busenius, Carole Candy, Dale Adam Front - James Laiss, Melvin and Brian Felske, Gary Adam Missing - Joan Craig*

In the meantime, a new start was made with some more young players. At the present time they perform on church holidays and other occasions, but they also operate under the same handicap - the need for more members.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Prior to 1946, the serving pastors usually held Saturday School classes and occasionally, whenever there was a Mission Festival and church anniversary, they would have a short Sunday School session between the two services, depending on the number of children present.

Saturday School was conducted in German by the Pastor and the children learned to read and write in German out of the Fibel (Primer). They were taught from the "Biblishe Geschichte", a book of Bible stories. The older children also learned and memorized the catechism which was in German as well.

In 1946, when Pastor P. Hanneman became pastor of this congregation, only confirmation classes were held on Saturday. On Sunday, he would conduct lessons for about thirty minutes after the service. In 1949, Elizabeth Kruger, who was a teacher at the Douglas School, assisted Pastor Hanneman teaching Sunday School, for about two years. Afterwards



*1971 Kindergarten Class representing children of other lands.*

Bobby (Robert) Robinson took over.

The start in 1951 of our first English Sunday School, with the introduction of the "Sunday Pix," was a "comic strip" type booklet, depicting the lives of Biblical characters; relating from Biblical stories to contemporary life, etc. These booklets cost two cents per book.

Parents waited for their children in the small narthex of our little old church and sometimes were quite noisy. They often had to be hushed many more times than the children. Some time later it became necessary to hold Sunday School downstairs. In 1964 the facilities were enhanced after the new church was built.

Each in turn, put in a stint of teaching; Erna and Rena Widmann; Carmi and Roelle Missal and Olga Felske who enjoyed the kindergarten classes.



*1971 Church Picnic on church grounds.*



In 1964 a new Sunday School curriculum called the "Lutheran Church of America Sunday School Series" from Philadelphia was introduced and was used until 1976. This material consisted of a text book, teacher's guide, and a workbook. The curriculum required one hour of instruction time for a lesson to be completed. The Sunday School classes consisted of grades one up to grade eight. Mr. Alfred Banick was the first Sunday School Superintendent and there were five teachers with a substitute for each teacher. Teachers were: Kindergarten, Olga Felske; Grade 1 and 2, Margarite Banick; Grade 3 and 4, Doris Felske, Mary Busenius; Grade 5 and 6, Erika Haupt, Gloria Lueders and Grade 7 and 8, Elly Hirsch, Rena Jait.

This was the beginning of our present day Sunday School. Numerous changes have taken place over the years. As of 1965, Sunday School classes were no longer held during July and August. The curriculum was changed several times. We no longer have a grade 7 and 8 class, which was eliminated in 1979 and a nursery was added in 1980.

Over the years the school attendance increased and so did the noise and distractions between the different class groups. Thus it became necessary, about 1970, to purchase curtain dividers.

The Congregation, in 1976, purchased a piano to replace the old pump organ, which had been used for many years, to assist in class singing.

The establishing of a library in 1980 and around this time also, blackboards and a tape recorder were added for teaching aids.

In 1983, a puppet theatre was constructed and many "animal" friends were added as a teaching aid.

In March 1984, the Sunday School held a "Soup Sunday", where everyone was asked to bring one vegetable. The vegetables were put into one pot and enough soup was cooked to feed the congregation. The idea behind the "Soup Sunday" was to show, that when a little is shared, you get a lot.

A "Love Sunday" was hosted in 1985. Here a luncheon was served and we all celebrated a whole year of birthdays on one day, with each person sitting at his or her respective "birthday table".

It was traditional to have the children's Christmas program on Christmas Eve. However, since 1981, the program has been held the Sunday before Christmas.

Going back to a Christmas in the beginning of the '50's before electricity was installed in the church, the council usually came a bit early to stoke the furnace - already lit earlier in the afternoon by the janitor - and light the gasoline lamp.

Occasionally the lamp generator would not "perk" and it would take some fiddling to make it



*1980 Vacation Bible School with Pastor Pudrycki on the guitar*

cooperate; or a mantle had to be replaced. On this one occasion both mantles were gone, which was odd, as the lamp was hung from the high ceiling with pulley and cord allowing the lamp to be lowered, lit and strung back up to about ten feet above floor level. We were lucky this time, there were replacements available.

The mantles were tied on, prelit and puffed out beautifully, after the valve was turned on. With the lamp in place giving off it's bright light and the usual audible hiss, it's what most children of the time relate to Christmas Eve; it was one of the few times that the lamp was burning with the whole congregation in attendance. By this time the pews were filling up and spare benches had been put out front for the children, who were vying for dominance with their noise level and that of the lamp.

The band, up in the small balcony played Christmas carols filling in time, until Pastor Hanneman threaded his way up the crowded aisle, to the altar. The Christmas tree had already been decked with garland and candles the Sunday afternoon before Christmas. The soft wax candles were always under close scrutiny when lit. There always was the hazard of a fire.



*1985-86 Sunday School Teachers  
Back: Joyce Read, Leona Pretzlaff, Ernie Eggert,  
Carol Ramachandran Front: Carole Candy, Sharon  
Candy, Barb Lind, Patricia Buskas*

After the opening ceremony, the pastor called on class groups or individuals depending on what type of poem he had allocated a month previously. Some of the children knew their four line verse inside out and rattled it off in a hurry, then practically ran off the diaz before he was finished to get out of the "lime light". A ripple of laughter from the parents followed him down.

There was always one that did not manage to memorize his verse or "spruch" - both languages were used. Repeating the first line four or five times, even with his mother, who knew it perfectly, prompting him from the fourth pew. He finally finished with a promise "Wait till I get you home".

Christmas songs and carols interspersed the program with some of the musical families adding an extra melody or two. For the children the end was none too soon. The highlight of the evening was when the treats were handed out in a brown paper bag or "tüten" depending what language your family used.

After the last family bundled up and went out with Merry Christmas and Fröhliche Weihnachten floating back and forth. The lamp was lowered. The valve turned off - this is one built in phenomenon of years gone by that modern technique has not been able to improve. The lamp would continue to give forth light until the last person had left and until the fuel in the generator burnt out.

As for the mystery of the broken mantels, this was solved some weeks later, when white paint was noticed on the base of the lamp. With the lamp in the down position, it would reach either side wall from a hefty heave propelling it pendulum fashion, matching the rim marks on either wall.



*1985 Childrens Christmas Concert*

In 1984, it was decided to do a non-traditional Christmas program. Many hours of work went into the preparation of "A Space Odessy - Christmas 2001".

The children's Christmas program of recent years reflect some of the changes in format that come with changing cultural patterns. The program of 1984 was named "Christmas 2001 - A Space Adventure". It portrayed space characters who were intrigued with Earth's strange Celebration of Colored Lights -- as they perceived Christmas. On coming to earth to do their own investigation, they discover that the festival is not primarily about light but about a more profound reality -- love. The space people, Orion, Myaa and CD2 hear from their friends, Rick, Gwen and Paula, the story of God's love in Jesus. Through a time machine the group is able to travel back in time to join Joseph, Mary and the Shepherds around the manger. The space people, having come to earth in their flying machine, return to their own planet, Plamatos, to "tell the good news".

The 1985 program -- Christmas 2020 -- is a sequel. Myaa and Orion return to the earth to investigate the trouble that is reported. Alex, one of the earth kids, follows his curiosity in investigating the space-time machine. By pushing the wrong button he gets lost in time and the rest have to go looking for him. They search as far back as Isaiah and Micah, and through the instructions of these prophets find their way to the manger of the Great Prophet, Jesus, only to discover Alex amongst the shepherds. CD2 is not with the space people on this trip. He slipped a disc and is replaced by a more modern model, CD3.



*1985-86 Sunday School*

These programs are of the genre of twentieth century musicals. Patty Buskas, Joyce Read and others helped with the direction. Alan and Colin Candy provided lighting and sound boards. The music features the children singing up-beat songs to the accompaniment of a pre-recorded sound track.

In July 1981, we saw the start of our first Vacation Bible School, which was well attended. This has now become an annual event.



The 1984-85 material now in use is from "Scripture Press" with approximately 30 children in attendance. The Sunday School Superintendent is Joyce Reid, Music, Patti Buskas, and on guitar Ernie Eggert. Teachers: Nursery, Carole Candy, Barb Lind; Kindergarten, Leona Pretzlaff, Winnie Busenius; Grade 1 and 2, Gunda Asbjornsen, Jane Lueders; Grade 3 and 4, Sharon Candy; Grade 5 and 6, Marty Birrell, Donna Otto.

The Sunday School closes its school year with a picnic held jointly with the whole congregation.

## FAITHFUL HELPERS CIRCLE

*by Mary Busenius*

A second ladies group, the Faithful Helpers Circle (F.H.C.) was organized on March 19, 1980 with eleven members. They were: Sharon Candy (President), Lydia Busenius (Vice-President), Joyce Read (Secretary), Evelyn Yost (Treasurer), Mary Busenius (Devotions), Rose Fingler (Cradle Roll), Patti Buskas, Anna Buss, Olga Felske, Vera Lueders and Margaret Weiman.

We meet at the church on the first Wednesday of the month. The F.H.C. ladies visit the hospitalized members of the church and the sick at home whenever possible. We try to support annually the Strathcona Christmas Bureau, the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots (LAMP), Lutheran Institutional Ministry in Edmonton (LIME), and the Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR). Recently we supported the Sherwood Park Women's Shelter and the St. John's Youth Band. A project that we recently completed was making the new altar paraments to go with the new altar furniture. Every year, the F.H.C. raises money for its various projects by hosting suppers and having a table annually at the Garden Hall bazaar and bake sale.



*Faithful Helpers Circle*

*Back Row L-R: Lydia Busenius (Treasurer), Eileen Banick, Olga Felske (Vice-President), Elsie Beck, Margaret Weiman. Front: Rose Fingler (President), Mary Busenius (Secretary), Anna Buss, Vera Lueders*

## ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN YOUTH GROUP

The first Young People's group or Youth Group as it is known today, was organized on June 17, 1955 with the help of Rev. Paul Hanneman. This group consisted of 13 members - Adolph Adam; Audrey Beck; Arthur, Margaret and Mary Birkholz; Eleanor Busenius; Ida Busenius; Eric and Paul Felske; Max Kuerbis; Lucy Radke; and Erna and Rena Widmann. Elected as the executive were: President, Erna Widmann, Vice-President, Audrey Beck and Secretary-Treasurer, Eleanor Busenius. The group met once a week at the church where Rev. Hanneman would read Bible stories followed by a discussion period. Singing was also a regular group activity, with the young people singing for Christmas, New Year's Eve, Good Friday and other church festivals. However, no organization can operate without at least some income, and this young people's group was no exception. It was therefore agreed that each member would pay a due at each meeting, in the amount of five cents. In 1957, the young people put on a program at the Wye Hall with the assistance of Adalbert Missal and Millie McKay.



*Youth Skit*

Eventually the group became smaller and smaller as members moved away or got married. For a number of years there was no youth group in the congregation. However, the need for such a group began to grow in the late 1960's as did the enthusiasm. Fortunately, this did not go unnoticed by two "youthful" members of the congregation. In 1970, Mrs. Olga Felske and Mrs. Hilda Grams organized a new group including Gordon Beatty, Ken Busenius, Keith Felske, Verna Felske, Alan and Debbie Fingler, George and Wilfred Friedrich, Gordon and Doreen Grams, Kurt and Lynette

Hanneman, Randy and Rosanne Hirsch, Walter and Fred Kuerbis and Rudy and Ursula Schmidt. Youth Group meetings consisted of devotions, Bible studies, general business and of course, leisure activities, which, as in the first Group a number of years earlier, included a great deal of singing. When looking back it seems that music of some form, was the "glue" that kept the groups together. Members purchased "folk hymnals" for themselves and Rev. E. Kublik provided them with books as well. Singing was definitely a regular activity, with members often staying late into the evening just to sing songs! They often sang at various church events. When the pastor was away on holidays or at a convention, the Youth Group occasionally would conduct the services. Christmas carolling has become an annual event with the Youth travelling around to the homes of the senior citizens in the congregation, singing Christmas carols, and of course, being treated to Christmas goodies along the way.

In 1971, a "Walk-a-Thon" was held from the Country Esso Service Station on Highway 16 to Elk Island Park. No doubt, this is probably one event that will be long remembered by it's members, as well by their parents. Participation in the church services by the members continued.

On April 29, 1973, they presented a "folk" service which was well received by the congregation. Funds were collected through dues, 25¢ per meeting, (inflation had already started) and various events that were put on with the money going for various projects; with a donation of \$300.00, towards the purchase of a Gestetner duplicating machine. In November, a supper was hosted, followed by a program including two films and general fellowship.

In February of the following year, 1974, the Youth Group participated in a rally, "Faith is . . . It's the Real Thing", at Trinity Lutheran Church in Edmonton, where participants gave their rendition in answering the question - "What is Faith?" That same month several members attended a seminar to organize "Project Ark", which was sponsored by the Western Canada Synod and designed to help the youth to solve organizational and communication problems they might have. The same year another program and social evening was put on with the object of raising the initial funds for the purchase of a piano for the Sunday School and general church use.

In 1976 the Youth Group was invited by the group from Trinity Lutheran Church in Edmonton on a skiing trip to Jasper. The fun weekend was enjoyed by everyone, and no one returned with any broken bones. In July they again went to Elk Island Park for



*Youth - 1985*

*Back - Grant Felske, Carole Candy, Debbie Laiss, Roy Busenius Front - James Laiss, Melvin Felske Missing - Lori Unterschultz, Bob Vivian, Sharon Mohr*

a retreat. A story was circulated that the girls did all the cooking and cleaning up, while the boys went out playing golf all day and having a good time. However, when the parents came down on Sunday for dinner, the boys couldn't seem do enough work! Nevertheless, everyone had a great time at the retreat. When Rosanne Hirsch (the leader of the group) got married, they participated in the program at her wedding. In September the youth conducted two services in the absence of the pastor. To raise additional funds, they also served lunch at a local auction sale.

In 1978, they arranged and presented the Easter Sunrise service.

The year 1979, saw the creation of the "house system", where they were divided into smaller groups or "houses" - Theophilites, led by Donna Busenius; Samaritans, led by Betti Rose and the Republicans, led by Harry Friedrich. Each house was responsible for an activity. The house system was a way of delegating duties, involving all members. The advisors met with the house leaders and the pastor to discuss the direction which they were to take with the new system. In August, they, with chaperons, went on a retreat to Banff, enjoying the following: Johnson's Canyon; the gondola ride up Mt. Norquay and hike that followed; the wax museum; the candy shop; and the late night walks; another memorable event for those that attended. Vampires, ghouls, and goblins were all guests at the Halloween party in October; the first one hosted by our group.

Ken Unterschultz in 1980 took over as counsellor. Meetings were held every other Sunday. That year the Youth Group conducted a worship service at Calihoo, with the sermon in the form of a chancel drama. In the summer they went on a retreat to





*Youth Ricky Pretzlaff, Sandra Busenius, Kevin Dunse, Diane Vivian, Brian Marler*

Nordeg. With funds from a pancake supper; garbage clean-ups (starting in about 1978, the youth participates in roadside cleanup for the County of Strathcona, getting paid \$20.00 per mile) etc., they purchased blackboards of the Sunday School and a tape recorder for the congregation.

In 1981 the Youth Group put on a variety night with proceeds going towards Linda Pasula, an Edmonton woman with a rare skin disease. Gaylene Cleland was hired on a part-time basis as a youth worker in our congregation. In April, members enjoyed a travelling supper, visiting several homes and receiving a different course at each home. Certainly, an unusual and interesting way to have supper.

In August 1982, Cecilia and Gordon Munk took over the duties as the group's advisors until June 1984.

From September 1984 to present, Pastor R. Pudrycki and parents of the members, have taken



#### *1985 Confirmation Class*

*Left: Kelly Candy, Naomi Berton, Amy Pretzlaff, Jeannette Pretzlaff, Pastor Roy Pudrycki, Kim Dunse, Craig Marler, Billy Birrell*

over the leadership role with different parents taking a turn each month.

February 1984 saw a "Wake-a-Thon" where the Youth Group collected more than \$1,000 for the Sherwood Park Shelter for Battered Women. The event was enjoyed by both members and chaperones alike.

In January 1985, they hosted a supper in the church basement for the senior citizens of our congregation. This was in place of the carolling, cancelled due to adverse weather conditions. The basement took on a decor of a restaurant, complete with waiters (Y.G. members) with the traditional "towel" draped over the left arm. Tables were set for four and centered by a single lit candle. The light from ten other tables, gave the place the mystique of an elegant diner with dinner music in the background. The supper was a great success, both seniors and juniors savoring the mood of a night on the town, with candlelight and music (no wine?). This may become an annual event. In May they took on the responsibility of cleaning up the church cemetery at our annual "spring cleanup". For many years now, the youth have customarily purchased



#### *1985 Christmas Carolers*

*Back from L-R: Grant Felske, Craig Marler, Roy Busenius, Brian Marler, Pastor Pudrycki Front: Half of Wilf Friedrich, Harry Friedrich, Sharon Mohr, Carol Candy, Naomi Burton, Kelly Candy*

flowers for Mother's Day and occasionally for Father's Day.

At this writing, the Youth Group has a membership of about 12 members, with the executive as follows: President, Debbie Laiss; Vice-President and Secretary, Laurie Unterschultz, and Treasurer, Jim Laiss. They meet on a regular basis which included Bible studies, leisure activities, etc., except during summer months.

Certainly, the conditions of the youth of today is

different from our first young people back in 1955. However, the interest and enthusiasm still exists among our young today. The purpose is basically the same - bringing the youth of our church together to share the word of God through different forms and to share in the fellowship of one another's company.

Through the years numerous people have helped make the activities a success and we thank them for the contributions they have made in whatever ways and trust there will be others like them in the future to carry on the work. However, there cannot be a Youth Group without the youth and so we also thank them for becoming involved in the church and making their contributions, over the years.

## THE ROADRUNNER

*By Roy Pudrycki (Pastor)*

"The Roadrunner" is the official name of our Congregation's newspaper. It is printed monthly, except for July, and was started at the suggestion of Erwin Eggert when he was on Council in the late seventies. The first issue appeared in April of 1979. More than sixty issues have been prepared since and circulation each month numbers in the eighties. The name for the paper was suggested by Karen Cliperton. Its meaning is an up-date of the metaphor of walking the way of the Lord. The logo tends to say it all.

The purposes of the paper are simple; To inform, to inspire and to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas. Reporters, columnists and workers of every sort have been busy carrying out these purposes. While the paper has continued, many workers have come and gone.

Our editors have numbered four: Wilf Friedrich, Pearl Neumann, Rick Riep and Dianne Dunse. Wilf's question, "But what if we run out of stuff to print?" is still remembered by some. As it has turned out, we haven't quite run out of stuff, though sometimes we came close. Each editor brought something of themselves to the job. This has kept the paper fresh and developing. Rick introduced a revolution when he began to reproduce the paper on his family's computer and photostat machine. When someone donates a computer to the Congregation there is little doubt that that method of doing the paper will be resumed. Pearl and Dianne presented the feminine perspective to the paper. Dianne's warmth and joy are a particularly welcome contrast to (my Pastor's cool) and social articles.

Half the congregation has participated in one way or another in doing the Roadrunner. Erwin Eggert was its first advisor; Anna Stein, Edith Eggert, Leona Pretzlaff, Donna Busenius, Sylvia Riep and



*1985 Roadrunner*

*Editor: Dianne Dunse Circulation: Lil Laiss*

others were amongst the regular typists. Virri Missal had started with a monthly cartoon but that effort became difficult to continue. Lil Laiss is circulation manager and probably the only person on the project to still hold her original job. Various young people became reporters. An assortment of columns have come and gone: kids' column, German column, guest editorials, synod and church-at-large articles. Kelvin Hirsch kept members informed of synod and convention business. Henry Pretzlaff wrote up his trip to the Farm Food conference in Ontario and on another occasion stirred us up not to fall into the trap of decadent theological liberalism. Margrit Weiman wrote a personal column for a while and Elsie Beck told of her trip to Cuba. Lori Unterschulz did a cartoon sequence for several months and notable cartoon characters have made occasional appearances . . . but we wouldn't want the syndicates to know.

The Roadrunner has been kept going by contributions of material from congregation members and by financial donations as well. The paper will continue as long as both are done. While its publication each month takes considerable work, there is little doubt that it has served the congregation's need.



**THE**

# ROAD RUNNER



St. John Lutheran Church, R.R. 3, Sherwood Park, Alberta

April 1979

# THE ROAD RUNNER



NINETEENTH ISSUE

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH - ARDROSSAN

OCTOBER 1981

# THE ROAD RUNNER



THIRTY-FIRST ISSUE

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, RR #3, SHERWOOD PARK

OCTOBER '82

# THE ROAD RUNNER



THIRTY-FIFTH ISSUE

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, RR #3, SHERWOOD PARK

FEBRUARY '83

# Anniversaries (25 Years)

Lueders, Theodore and Anna	September 4, 1929
Renas, Robert and Julia	January 24, 1936
Felske, Wilhelm and Christina	February 13, 1937
Stucke, Heinrich and Natalia	May 23, 1947
Berndt, Gottfried and Augusta	February 8, 1948
Adam, Gustav and Augusta	September 30, 1948
Hanneman, Rev. Paul and Ruth	June 2, 1950
Haupt, Adolph and Marta	December 28, 1950
Anders, Julius and Lydia	May 6, 1951
Birkholz, Julius and Lydia	March 1, 1952
Busenius, Reinhold and Ottilie	January 2, 1953
Platzke, Leonard and Wanda	April 14, 1954
Busenius, William and Louise	November 7, 1954
Busenius, Heinrich and Selma	January 8, 1955
Birkholz, Gus and Frieda	December 26, 1957
Widmann, Ewald and Leokadia	February 3, 1959
Pretzlaff, Julius and Julianna	March 1, 1963
Missal, Adalbert and Eleonore	June 5, 1965
Schilman, Siegmund and Irma	December 29, 1967
Swonek, Leonard and Elsie	June 24, 1968
Felske, Gerhardt and Martha	March 13, 1968
Lueders, Fred and Vera	November 25, 1968
Banick, Alfred and Eileen	November 18, 1968
Doberstein, Emil and Hertha	August 5, 1973
Hirsch, Clarence and Elly	August 26, 1973
Domke, Gus and Clara	October 25, 1975
Fingler, Art and Rose	June 22, 1976
Hanneman, Wilfred and Marion	June 12, 1977
Friedrich, Leo and Eva	May 6, 1978
Felske, Eric and Olga	November 14, 1978
Schmidt, Richard and Ira	April 24, 1979
Eggert, Erwin and Selma	November 13, 1979
Grams, Paul and Hilda	July 29, 1980
Stein, George and Anna	March 16, 1982
Busenius, Clarence and Mary	May 31, 1982
Felske, Paul and Doris	August 22, 1983



*April 14, 1954 - Leonard and Wanda Platzke*



*Nov. 7, 1954 - Wilhelm and Louise Busenius*



*June 2, 1950 - Rev. and Mrs. P. Hanneman*





*March 5, 1956 - Gottlieb and Anna Buss*



*Feb. 3, 1959: Rena, Ewald, Sheila and Leokadia Widmann, Erna Adam*



*Oct. 10, 1960 - Pastor and Mrs. Querengesser on their silver wedding anniversary, taken at Hay Lakes, Alta.*



*March 13, 1968 Martha and Gerhardt Felske*



*March 1, 1963 - Julius and Julianna Pretzlaff*



*November 18, 1968 - Alfred and Eileen Banick*



*June 24, 1968 - Leonard and Elsie Swonek*



*1973 - Clarence and Elly Hirsch*



*August 5, 1973 - Hertha and Emil Doberstein On right, Elly & Clarence Hirsch*



*Oct. 25, 1975 - Back: Dennis, Clara and Gus Domke  
Front: Darlene, Eileen, Carol, Jean, Karen, Colleen*



*1978 - Eric and Olga Felske*



*May 6, 1978 - Rev. A. Querengesser, Leo and Eva Friedrich*





*Nov. 13, 1979 Erwin and Selma Eggert*



*May 31, 1982 Clarence and Mary Busenius*



*April 24, 1979, Back: Rudy, Harvey, Ursula Front: Ira, Richard, Ralph Schmidt*



*August 22, 1983, L-R: Grant, Melvin, Doris, Paul, Brian, Wayne Felske*

## GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY (50 YEARS)

Lueders, Theodore and Anna	September 4, 1954
Renas, Robert and Julia	January 24, 1961
Felske, Wilhelm and Christina	February 13, 1962
Kluge, Julius and Ida	February 5, 1963
Stucke, Heinrich and Natalie	May 23, 1972
Adam, Gustav and Augusta	September 30, 1973
Haupt, Adolph and Marta	December 28, 1975
Birkholz, Julius and Lydia	March 1, 1977
Busenius, William and Louise	November 7, 1979
Busenius, Heinrich and Selma	January 8, 1980
Birkholz, Gus and Frieda	December 29, 1982



*Sept. 4, 1954: Anna and Theodore Lueders*



*Jan. 24, 1961 - Robert and Juliana Renas*



*Feb. 13, 1962, Back Row L-R: Eric, Elsie Beck, Gerhard, Frieda Birkholz Front: Paul, Christina and Wilhelm Felske, Hilda Losing*



*May 23, 1972 - Natalie and Heinrich Stucke*





*Sept. 30, 1973 - Back: Leon, Bill, Adolf, Gussie, Arthur Seated: Millie, Augusta and Gustav Adam, Olga*



*March 1, 1977, Lydia and Julius Birkholz*



*Jan. 8, 1980 - Selma and Heinrich Busenius*



*Dec. 28, 1975 - Martha and Adolph Haupt*



*Nov. 7, 1979: Wilhelm and Louise Busenius*



*1980 - Elsie and Ewald Kublik*



*1982 - Frieda and Gus Birkholz*



*Jan. 24, 1971 - Julianna and Robert Renas  
60th Anniversary*

**DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY (65 YEARS)**  
Felske, Wilhelm and Christina February 13, 1977

**DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY (60 YEARS)**

Renas, Robert and Julia January 24, 1971  
Felske, Wilhelm and Christina February 13, 1972



*Feb. 13, 1972 - William and Christina Felske  
60th Anniversary*



*Feb. 13, 1977 - William and Christina Felske  
65th Anniversary*



## Pastors of Our Church



## FREITAG, PASTOR KARL

by *Walter Freitag*

There are times to remember and to celebrate and one of those times is the story of your congregation from its beginnings, from the moment that the Word of God was proclaimed among you. I am happy to share with you in your joy and wish you the blessing of God for the sake of Jesus Christ as you recollect your past in the Lutheran Church.

I was not yet born when my father, Pastor Karl Freitag began holding services at Ardrossan. He was then serving his first congregation after graduating from Lutheran College and Seminary at Saskatoon in 1928, having just married Katherina Goos. That congregation was Trinity Lutheran Church, Strathcona in South Edmonton.



The surviving minutes of the Manitoba Synod say that he was the pastor for a preaching point at Ardrossan in 1930, 1931, 1932, and 1933. Since the 1930 record refers to the synod's activities in the previous twelve month period, that would suggest that my father began preaching to your community during the latter half of 1929. It is possible that he might have held some services a little earlier than that.

Father's mission work among you must have continued until late summer of 1934. By that time, I would have been about two and a half years old with two sisters, Irmgard and Ingeborg, the last newly born. Our family moved to the Brightholme - Silvergrove parish in September of that year. According to the report of President Thomas Hartig of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Manitoba Synod and other Provinces in 1937, Pastor Karl Freitag was installed as pastor of that parish in October, 1934, by Pastor George Weidenhammer.

Father was secretary of the Alberta District of the Manitoba Synod during the years he served you. If

your congregation had lay representatives to those district meetings, then they are listed as part of the Trinity Lutheran Church, Strathcona.

I was, I am afraid, too young to remember anything from those early years in my life, and in the career of my father. It is nice to meet people who knew Dad and Mom and can tell me about those days, and I imagine that there are still some of you who could do that. May I wish all of you the richest of God's blessings in the name of Jesus Christ as you celebrate your history as a community of the gospel.

## GAERTNER, PASTOR FRED

by *F. Gaertner*

Born on May 23, 1912 in Herrnkirch, Kreis Znin, Province of Posen and emigrated in 1923, I grew up at Tisdale, Saskatchewan, attended Lutheran College and Seminary, Saskatoon and graduated, there May 29, 1940. Soon after that I was assigned to Mission Work under Dr. E.A. Tappert of the Philadelphia Office to St. John's Lutheran Church, Ardrossan while awaiting a "Call to the Ministry". I must have arrived there in June or July. Under the guidance of Pastor H. Luetkehoelter of Trinity Lutheran Church, Edmonton, a place for me to stay was arranged on the farm yard of ? I wish my memory was better than it is, but the name of Fuhr or Busenius seems to ring a bell. I'd be grateful if somebody there would refresh my memory and help me out of my embarrassment. To this day I feel indebted to the kind hospitality of the family and would like to thank them.



I was as green as any who grew up in the bush of the north country and hardly knew how to begin or continue to serve a congregation. I was as helpless as I felt and so can understand why one Sunday only one lady turned up for the morning worship service



and together we went through the whole service, sermon and all! To this day I don't know how we survived and why, except that by the grace of God, both, congregation and I, were meant to survive! The only source of preaching and teaching that I remember having in the granary - which served as my study and living quarters - were the Bible the Hebrew and Greek dictionary! I can remember how I struggled to find enough material for Sunday sermons. This stands out in my recollections. One more thing I cannot forget, but hate to mention; after quite a few months at Ardrossan, Dr. Tappert of the Philadelphia office demanded a day-by-day itemizing of my activities there! I had not been made aware of such a request, until after the fact and so fell out with Dr. Tappert and the Mission Board. This may explain why my stay at Ardrossan was quite short. I do not know exactly how short, but some time in 1941 I moved to supply, during a vacancy of Pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church, Golden Spike.

After two years of waiting, I was ordained to the ministry in June, 1942 and served until May, 1983, when I retired.

### **PASTOR OTTO E. GOOS**

My ministry to St. John's Lutheran Church of Ardrossan, was of brief duration, but was most delightful and rewarding. I was on the point of retiring when the invitation came from St. John's, to serve them on a part-time basis. I accepted and soon found the response of the people to my ministry truly warm and generous.



*Pastor and Mrs. Otto Goos.*

We still served in two languages, although the need for service in the German language had declined measureably. The fact that I did not live in the community, but commuted from Edmonton

presented no problem.

During my stay, volunteers ably staffed an active Sunday School. The ladies group had strong leadership within it, so needed no guidance from me. The youth served eagerly, just a mite disappointed in the support of the congregation. One effort of special services during the week, when Pastors E. Duesterhoeft and D. Olson spoke, was well supported. And the band often gave musical support to the services. My only personal regret was that the custom of taking communion on High Festivals was still strongly observed.

I left Ardrossan with regret, but came away with the most pleasant memories of generous participation and warm fellowship of people in Christ.

### **PASTOR and MRS. PAUL HANNEMAN**

*- by Ruth Hanneman*

Pastor Hanneman was born in July of 1894 in Munster, West Germany. He grew up there and in 1920 graduated from University and was ordained a Lutheran Minister. He stayed in Germany for two years before accepting a call to teach at a proseminary in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

In 1924 he moved to New York where he had relatives. It was there that he received a call to Leduc, Alberta, to serve the St. John's and Grace Lutheran parish. It was here that he met Ruth Albrecht, and they were married in the spring of 1925. In August of the same year Pastor Hanneman and his wife moved to Golden Spike where he took up the parish there. They stayed for five years before moving to Bashaw, where they stayed for two years. They then returned to Golden Spike where Pastor Hanneman served another nine years.



*1971 Mrs. R. Hanneman, Pastor P. Hanneman  
Pastor Hanneman's 50th year in the Ministry.*

During this time their three children, Karl, Wilfried and Gertrude were born. The family then moved to Telfordville where Pastor Hanneman served as pastorate of six and a half years. It was in Telfordville that he received a call to serve in the Ardrossan St. John's Lutheran Church. They moved to Ardrossan in July of 1946 and he took over the Ardrossan and Fultonvale congregations.

Pastor Hanneman served this parish for over

twenty-six years and during this time tutored U.N. students in Latin and other subjects and aided in the building of a new church that was built in 1963. Mrs. Hanneman, meanwhile, was keeping busy by working with the Ladies Aid organization.

It was in November of 1972 that they moved back to the Leduc area after Pastor Hanneman received and accepted a call from the Grace Lutheran Church, Leduc.



1948 Hanneman Family L-R: Carl, Ruth, Robert Robertson, Wilfred, Gertrude and Pastor Hanneman



1964 Back L-R: Gertrude, Max, Elder, David Front: Lenore and Robert Lentz



1972 Pastor P. Hanneman's Farewell



## PASTOR KUBLIK, EWALD and ELSIE

by *Elsie Kublik*

Pastor Ewald Kublik was born in Wolhynia, Russia in 1901. He came to Canada when he was two years old with his parents, John and Marie, and settled in the Ellerslie district. There he grew up and took his high school, then his theology at the Saskatoon Seminary. He was ordained at Ellerslie in 1929 and took his first Parish at Davin-Kronau-Vibank, Saskatchewan. In 1930 Ewald and Elsie Henschel were married at Ellerslie. Elsie Henschel was born in 1911 and grew up 2 miles across the field from the Kublik farm. Her parents were William and Leocadia from Wolhynia, Russia. John Kublik was a hired man for William on the farm in Wolhynia. They came to Canada in 1896. Elsie was baptized, confirmed and married in St. Paul Lutheran, Ellerslie.



*June 12, 1930: Elsie Henschel & Ewald Kublik*

Pastor Kublik served this Saskatchewan parish from 1929 to 1944 where they drove with horse, buggy and sleigh for 8 years, then graduated to a used Model A Ford. They had 3 daughters in Saskatchewan, Helen, Esther and Martha. In

November, 1944 they came to Patience-Falun, Alberta where Miriam was born. In 1952 to 1957 they served the Wetaskiwin parish and from 1957 to 1968 they had the additional congregation of Falun.

They retired to Mulhurst in 1968. They called their place Capernaum. Pastor Kublik helped out in many congregations after his retirement including St. John's Ardrossan, for several weeks when Pastor P. Hanneman went to Germany. He was also a guest speaker in the old Fultonvale church and the old St. John's.

They lived in their comfortable mobile home on the Komant farm in Ardrossan, during the winter of 1980 and 1981 and in Mulhurst for the summer. Their 50th wedding anniversary was celebrated in 1980 at the Garden Hall.

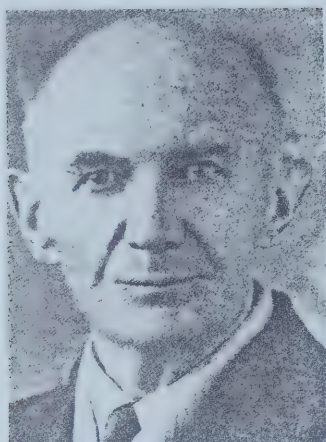


*June 1978 Kublik Family Back Row L-R: Helen Groger, Miriam Roth, Esther Komant, Martha Birrell, Ewald & Elsie Kublik seated.*

Pastor Kublik was choir organist at St. John's the year before he passed away on November 20, 1982. He had practiced with the choir a couple of times before his death. The choir sang one of these practiced songs at his funeral at Ellerslie. He lived his life for Christ. The very last words he spoke were at a Golden Wedding Anniversary in Wetaskiwin where he gave a prayer of praise and thanksgiving, and the Lord took him home.

Elsie lives in her mobile home and is now a member of St. John's Lutheran church, Ardrossan.

## PASTOR H.E. LEHMANN



*Pastor and Mrs. H. Lehmann and Arnold*



*Pastor and Mrs. H. Lehmann, taken in 1945*

## PASTOR HEINRICH LUTKEHOELTER

*by Lee Luetkehoelter*

Father served this congregation in the late 1930's. I can recall getting into our 1928 Chrysler and heading out along the country road to Ardrossan. On the way father felt it was his duty to reduce the gopher population. If there was one of these little animals on the road, he would head for it and it was our job to look out the back window to see whether his aim had been true. Another little delight was to stop and pick chokecherries which grew in abundance along the roadway. On one of these berry hunting expeditions, father found the fruit a little too tasty. He ate so many that he found it difficult to conduct the service.

Once we arrived at the church, we usually found it well attended. I can recall sitting on wooden benches without backs. On one particular Sunday flies attended even more thickly than people. One little insect buzzed around and landed on the back of the lady ahead of me. Forgetting decorum, I gave it a hefty wack, killing the fly, and startling the worshipper.



Father was an excellent story teller. I vividly recall his relating the beheading of John the Baptist (Matt. 14: 1-12). It was obvious he didn't much care for Herod who was too weak to stand up to his wife and daughter when they made this outrageous request that John be killed. He thought even less of children



who used the good gifts they had for shoddy and low purposes. When he was finished, all of us, sitting on those wooden benches, were more determined than ever to lead lives pleasing in God's sight.

Another incident that stands out vividly is when he and the carpenter from Edmonton spent many days helping a widow build a warm house. The woman had lost her husband and was trying to raise her family in a log cabin that was impossibly cold in the wintertime. While father and other people worked at the building, I went off with the boy to hunt rabbits and gophers. The weapon I had constructed was an arrow-gun. A missile made out of a shingle was put into the slot of a piece of V-joint. It was then propelled by a rubber band cut from an innertube. This instrument lacked accuracy and the animals were perfectly safe. However, the two of us had a grand time together. Father seemed to thoroughly enjoy being carpenter's helper and I delighted in being able to wander around the countryside with a good friend.

It is also my recollection that after the Sunday service members were most hospitable. We were invited to the homes of the members and they always treated us royally. It was not at all unusual for us to return home at night well fed with a dead chicken lying at our feet (the car had no trunk).

Ministry was my father's life and delight. I can never remember him complaining about the workload that he carried. It seemed to him to be a great privilege to be able to serve.

### **ROY PUDRYCKI (Pastor):**

I was born in 1942, the youngest of a family of five.

My parents had emigrated in the spring of 1930 from the Petersburg area of Poland (Piotrkow) to a place called Cudworth, Saskatchewan. My mother's side was German (Boge, Brauer), my father's mother was also German (Fleischer), so by inheritance we children were baptised in the Lutheran rather than Roman Catholic Church. Our ancestors had probably come from western Europe sometime before the revolutions of 1848 in Germany, perhaps with the general migration initiated by Katherine the Great of Russia in the late 1700 s. On arrival, they settled on the land and became farmers. When the family farm was being divided up one more time and the pieces were becoming too small to support a family, my parents made plans to come to Canada.

They arrived at Halifax harbour in May of 1930; from there they made their way west by train. Though arriving at Cudworth, Saskatchewan, they settled, eventually, at Middle Lake, a half-

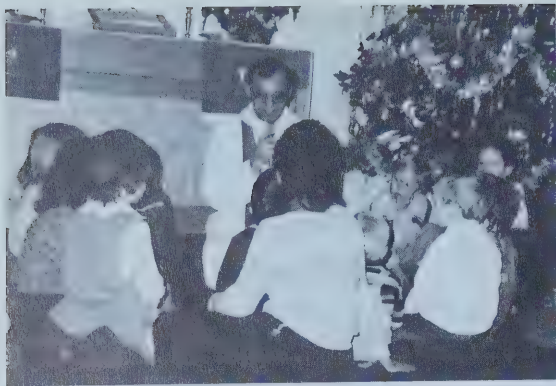


*1985 - Pastor Roy Pudrycki*

Protestant, half-Roman Catholic community some one hundred kilometers northeast of Saskatoon. Here I was baptised in a little country church, St. John's, of the old Ohio Synod. The congregation eventually merged with Grace Lutheran, a Missouri Synod congregation, and the church was moved into town. I attended Sunday School quite regularly and confirmed my faith at age 16. I attended high school in Middle Lake, but completed the twelfth grade at a Lutheran separate school at Outlook, Saskatchewan. Having declined the invitation of taking over the family farm, I went to teachers college in Saskatoon and studied Arts and Education at the University of Saskatchewan.

While teaching Junior High back in the sixties, I came across a book, *MERE CHRISTIANITY*, by C.W. Lewis gathering dust on a school shelf. Lewis's fresh and intelligent treatment of the classic faith -- he had been an atheist into his forties and was converted -- left a lasting impression on me. In an immediate way, it stimulated me to do theological studies at the Lutheran seminary at Saskatoon. The influence of the newly arrived seminary president, a Dr. William Hordern, was also to be lasting. One year of seminary study led to another and soon I was assigned to do my internship at Immanuel Lutheran in North Winnipeg. In May of 1970 I graduated, academic and internship requirements completed.

Following five months of hospital and prison ministry at Regina, I accepted a call to parish



*1985 - Pastor Roy Pudrycki - Kids talk.*

ministry in November to a two point parish at Carlyle, Saskatchewan. Except for a year of graduate studies in Montreal in 1976, I remained at Carlyle until coming to Edmonton in June of 1978. After a summer of research for a proposed television drama series for kids, and extended and intense efforts to raise funds for script writing and program production -- with no adequate success -- I began serving on a part time basis the St. John's Ardrossan congregation. Pastor A. Querengesser had been gone for several months and the congregation was looking for regular service. Through the mediation of Pastor D.W. Sjoberg, I signed a contract to serve three-quarter time, a year at a time. One thing led to another and finally in the Fall of 1982 I switched synods (Missouri to LCA) and began service on a full time basis.

People, dreams and needs have been the immediate influences on my life . . . with a little urging from God's Spirit. C.S. Lewis set me off into the ministry, Professor Hordern kept me there, the dream of a TV series brought me to Edmonton, the need for pastoral services led me to the St. John's congregation, and the rest of the story is still happening.

## **PASTOR QUERENGESSER, ALVIN and HILDEGARD**

*by Mrs. Hildegard Querengesser*

Pastor Alvin Querengesser came to serve the St. John's Ardrossan congregation in August 1975, after having ministered in the Beausejour rural Lutheran parish for 8 years. This included 3 congregations, St. John Greenwald, Trinity Thalberg and St. Paul Green Bay.

One of the first changes to be made in the St. John's Ardrossan congregation was to introduce English services every Sunday, instead of only every

other Sunday, so that the younger generation, who could not understand the German, also, had the opportunity to attend church service every Sunday.

Another effort was "Strength for Mission". He encouraged the members to support this vital work of our LCA and gave the reasons why this should be done. He was very pleased that several men offered to visit the members of the congregation and find out whatever each one wished to pledge. The results were very good. Out of thankfulness we celebrated one Sunday by having Pastor Jim Chell speak to us and having a lovely pot luck dinner right after the service.



*Fall of 1935: Pastor querengesser riding horseback to go out, the many miles, to one of his preaching places.*

My husband and I enjoyed visiting with the families of the congregation and always attended the Ladies Aid meetings every month. We made layettes for Lutheran World Relief and gathered clothes to send to people up north. Shortly before Christmas we went with the Ladies Aid members to the homes of all those who were 75 years and over to sing Christmas carols and give them a basket of fruit.

In the beginning of 1976, both German and English services were held every Sunday. This gave everyone the opportunity to attend the service of their choice every Sunday of the year.

During Sunday School, which was after the English service, an adult Bible Study class also was held. This gave parents an opportunity to get better acquainted with God's Word if they desired to do so.

Special programs and films were shown in order to give certain information and to help deepen the spiritual life.

The Sunday School teachers were given the opportunity to attend a teacher training course which showed various methods that can be used to make lessons more effective and more interesting and how to apply what we learn from God's Word to our daily



life. I enjoyed teaching this course.

At the end of August 1978 my husband decided to retire, for he was going to be 70 in September and had been in the ministry for 43 years.

Our children and grandchildren were there for the occasion and also took part in the Farewell Program the congregation presented.



1964 Querengesser Family Arthur, Pastor Querengesser Front; Hildegard, Heidi, Marilyn

We were presented with a large silver engraved tray as a farewell gift.

Pastor Querengesser was born in Brodhagen, Ontario, son of Henry and Ella Querengesser. He came west to Edmonton with his parents in 1910, but later lived on a farm in the Brush Hill district N.E. of Vegreville. There he received his education from Grade 1 to 8. He continued his education at the Lutheran College in Saskatoon and at the University of Saskatchewan. After completing high school and his university courses, he attended the Lutheran theological seminary in Saskatoon from which he graduated in 1935.

His first parish was at Northmark in the Peace River district with 3 other preaching places all in different directions many miles distant. Travel was done with the horse and on foot.

On October 10, 1935, Alvin was married to Hildegard Sterzer, daughter of Pastor and Mrs. Karl W. Sterzer, at Neudorf, Saskatchewan at Zion Lutheran church.

Before our marriage, I had been educated to be a teacher and taught in a country school at Neudorf grade 1 to grade 8 and 4 years in the town school at Edenwold, grade 1 to grade 3 and High School German.

Throughout our ministry in the various congregations in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, I was always active in Sunday School,

Vacation Church School V.C.S. and the ladies groups.

After the merge with Augustana Lutheran church, I was the first Lutheran Church Woman (LCW) District Chairman elected for Central Alberta. In Manitoba I was LCW district secretary and Synodical LCW Board member.

In several congregations I organized LCW groups and was asked to conduct LCW workshops for the synodical unit and for many years conducted Vacation Church School workshops.

Whether it was in Sunday School, V.C.S. or L.C.W. or the congregation as a whole, both my husband and I were concerned about the deepening of the spiritual life and the strengthening of the faith.

Our children and grandchildren live in Edmonton.

Our son Arthur is a teacher. He usually teaches music throughout the school. He is tenor soloist on Canada's National Bible Hour, directs the choir at St. Luke Lutheran church and has been choral director for the Easter Musical "Love according to John" presented by Teen Time of Edmonton. He has sung with the Da Camera Group, the Richard Eaton Singers and The University mixed chorus.



Pastor Alvin and Hildegard Querengesser

He is married to Beth Lodoen and has 3 daughters, Mirian, Naomi and Tanya.

Our daughter Adelheid, better known as Heide, taught at New Norway school before going out to the Mission Field in New Guinea. Soon after arriving there, she became very ill with infectious hepatitis - she also acquired parasites (amoeba hystolitica) and whip worm. All the drugs used to get rid of these illnesses ruined her digestive system. To this very day, there are many foods she can not tolerate and therefore has to follow a strict diet. However, people in New Guinea realized her artistic talents and so,

instead of using her as a short term English teacher, they asked her to teach art in the high school and also asked her to be art director for the Lutheran Printing Press. She had to make illustrations for brochures, pamphlets and books etc. and also trained 2 native young men to carry on with this art work that she had done for 3 years.

She married Edward Chan, whom she met in New Guinea. He works in the blood bank at the University Hospital in Edmonton.

They have 2 daughters, Sarilynn and Angilynn. They are members of Lord of Life Lutheran Church where Heidi has designed and made many beautiful banners and has been active in many ways.

Our youngest daughter, Marilyn, was a member of the Camrose Lutheran College Choir while she was a student there. She went to the New York World Fair with the choir, which was a lovely experience for her. Later she studied photography at NAIT for 2 years. She married Roy Bowers, who at that time was one of the teachers in the photography department. He now has his own business dealing with photographic equipment, ready mixed chemicals etc. and servicing the equipment he sells.

Marilyn and Roy have 6 children, Robert, Katherine, Christine, Angela, Michael and Grace. They are a lively bunch and are doing well in school. The whole family is active in their congregation at St. Alphonsus.

We celebrate special festivals together such as Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving plus birthdays and anniversaries.

The last family get together we had was at our home on Father's Day, June 17, 1984. We were happy and thankful all of us could be there. Little did we realize that my husband would be taken from us so suddenly on Friday, June 22nd.



*August 1978: Pastor and Mrs. Querengesser. Day of retirement at St. John's, Ardrossan.*

Although he was retired, he still had services in vacant congregations when pastors went on holidays or when asked to have a German service where it was still needed. His last service was at the Alan Grey Auxiliary Hospital on Sunday June 17th of this year.

He is now missed by all of us, but fondly remembered not only by his immediate family, but by a host of friends.

Throughout his many years in the ministry, he carried out his work faithfully and was always concerned that the congregation will reach out to others in the community, especially the unchurched, and make them feel welcome to join our congregation, fellowship with us, become a part of the family of God and the believers of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

## **WAHL, PASTOR WILHELM**

*by Marie Soch*

To the many German Lutherans in the north and central parts of Alberta they were known as Pastor and Frau Pastor Wahl but to us, their family, they were our Papa and Mom. Wilhelm Wahl was born June 17, 1892 in Isabelien, Poland to Karl and Luiza Wahl. Grandfather Wahl was a blacksmith in the village. He was also very musical and led the community band there. This love of music has been passed on through four generations.

Papa often told us how he had to help with the gardening and herding cows along with his oldest brother Karl and his friend Gustav Heimann. Later Papa and Gustav attended Kropp Seminary in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. After graduation, they came to Canada only to spend their first night on Canadian soil in jail. On landing, their luggage was checked by customs and their clerical gowns were found. They tried to explain the reason for the clerical gowns but weren't able to make it clear to the officials that they were really ministers but not ordained. Since it was 1914, just before the First World War, they were probably suspected of entering Canada under false pretenses, so were put in jail. Next day things were finally straightened out and Papa and Pastor Heimann were able to continue their journey to Edmonton. They were both ordained at St. John's, Edmonton on Feb. 15, 1914. Pastor Heimann went to Loyalist, Alberta to serve a small mission there and before the end of the year took over the parish at Inglis, Manitoba. Papa's first pastorate was the Davin-Kronau parish south east of Regina, Saskatchewan.

It was at Davin where he met and married my mother, Emelie Elisabeth on Nov. 14, 1917. Mom was born Sept. 7, 1900 at Davin to Johann and



Elisabeth Posehn. Shortly after their marriage they moved to Strathcona where Papa became the pastor at Trinity Lutheran on Nov. 15, 1917. During the years at Trinity, Papa also served the preaching place of Ardrossan.

My sister, Esther remembers families coming to Trinity from Ardrossan for the children's Christmas programs. What especially stands out in her memory were the long, long recitations these children had memorized. One family name she remembers is Otto. During all the years of Papa's ministry he kept a daily diary for each year. In these diaries he would keep a record of the many places he preached at, complete with the text from the Bible that his sermon was based on. As well, there were listed baptisms, weddings, deaths, and other bits of information including the weather. Looking through one that I have, I found two baptisms that took place June 23, 1918. One baby was Alfred Otto Banick, son of Theodore and Olga Banick. His sponsors were Samuel Pohl and Olga Felbel. The other baby was Rosalie Otto, the daughter of Albert and Martha Otto. Her sponsors were Adolph Adam and Pauline Wesenberg. Alfred Banick, I see, is listed as a committee member of the Ardrossan History Book. Could Rosalie Otto be a member of the Otto family that Esther remembers?



*June 1952 - Pastor and Mrs. William Wahl*

In 1926, Rev. A. Goos was called as a field missionary and shortly after, Papa became his assistant. Papa also served as a colonization and immigration director. He left Trinity the end of 1927 to devote all his time to this work. During the years 1928-1933 Papa travelled all through central and northern Alberta visiting the new settlers, not only counselling them in spiritual affairs but financial matters as well. Esther said that alot of the mail for these settlers would come to our house since these

people would use our address until they were really settled. So, here was our Papa, a mailman as well. Much of the work was done west of Leduc and Wetaskiwin, south to Stettler and north to Fawcett, Flatbush, Peace River, Hines Creek, Fort St. John and Prince George. Work in the Barrhead area began in the fall of 1927 when the railway was extended there. Even today much of this country is rugged.

What must it have been like at that time! Those were courageous people. Those early settlers and the missionaries who travelled amongst them. Referring to another of Papa's diaries I found that on May 3, 1932, Papa, Pastors R. Krisch, T. Hartig, E. Duesterhoeft and Mr. W. Missal drove out to Meadowview which is about 25 miles south west of Barrhead. Papa writes "Die Nacht ueber im mudhole" (translated "Spent the night in mudhole"). Pastor Hartig was the superintendent of missions from Winnipeg and Mr. Missal was the father of A. (Bert) Missal of Ardrossan. After becoming hopelessly stuck in the mud they were only getting muddier trying to push. In desperation, Mr. Missal took off his heavy leather belt, hooked it to the car and they were finally able to pull the car out. Mom always packed a big lunch for Papa and whoever travelled with him but I'm sure he spent many an hour hungry and far from a farm home or store where he could get some food. Now that we are much older and have read Papa's diaries we no longer wonder why he suffered from stomach ulcers all those many years.

We moved to Barrhead in 1933 where many of the new immigrants had settled. Papa's brothers, Karl and Gus and their families had come to Canada between 1925 and 1929. Uncle Karl was farming at Mosside and Uncle Gus was at Meadowview. Papa conducted the first service in the Meadowview area in Uncle Gus's home on Sept. 28, 1930. There was not only the congregation at Barrhead but Papa also served Lunnford, Manola, Mosside, Bloomsbury, Naples and Vega. He also conducted services at Meadowview, Mystery Lake and Ballantine until they had their own pastor. Mom told us in later years that when they moved to Barrhead they were promised a yearly salary of \$600.00 -- if the congregations could raise that much. Thanks to the generous people who gave so freely of their farm produce we were able to manage. How nice it would be to have a goose, duck or some of those eggs, now.

As a minister's wife, Mom was always there when she was needed -- helping to teach Saturday School, playing the organ at church, comforting those new settlers especially the young women who were miles and miles away from their families and friends in

Europe, as well as raising her own family of seven.

During the earlier years at Barrhead, several times a year Papa would take a car full of the new settlers to Edmonton to get their Canadian citizenship papers. Papa was often the interpreter for them. They would leave early in the morning and arrive home late at night. We always looked forward to Papa coming home as he would usually bring some maple syrup and Woodward's own brand of freshly grown peanut butter. Maple syrup and peanut butter just don't taste the same anymore.

I can remember that every so often a large box of used clothing would arrive from a congregation in the States. This was sorted out and distributed to the needier members of the church. Quite often there would be baby clothes which Mom would divide into layettes and give to the new mothers.

Christmas was special for us at Barrhead, it seems. A few days before Christmas a few of the council members would come to our house to pack the children's Christmas bags. The dining room table was opened as big as possible and everyone pitched in including us kids. Every candy and nut had to be counted to make sure that each bag was exactly the same! The Christmas Eve service at Barrhead was usually held quite early and after that service Papa would take any of the bags that were left over and leave for Vega, a much smaller and poorer congregation, for their service. I'm sure those children were even more excited about Christmas than we were.

While at Barrhead we made many, many friends and it was a sad day for us when we said goodbye and moved to New Sarepta in 1943. New Sarepta was quite a change for Papa and Mom -- going from several congregations to only one. Again, Papa became involved in a band and choir as he had done in all the previous congregations. Again, Mom taught Saturday School, played the organ in church and sang in the choir.

The challenge of a missionary congregation was still an ever present need of Papa's, so when the call came from Westlock in 1948, he and Mom again packed all their belongings and with the two children who were still at home, moved there. A new parsonage was built shortly after they got there and during the time that plans were being made to build a new church our Papa was called to his Eternal rest on May 4, 1953. Since Barrhead was some place special to all of us Mom asked that Papa be buried there. That same year Mom built a small house at Barrhead and lived there until 1975 and was still active in the church. After selling her house, Mom lived with Helene in Edmonton for a few years but spent her

last year at the Good Samaritan (Mount Pleasant) and finally at the Good Samaritan Auxiliary. She passed away peacefully on Monday, Nov. 10, 1980. She was buried at Barrhead on Nov. 14, which would have been her 63rd wedding anniversary.

Our family is now scattered. Esther married Eddy Grober in 1939. Eddy was Papa's assistant minister in Barrhead from 1939-1941. Esther is now widowed and living in Edmonton. Eddy passed away Sept. 5, 1982. Karl married Bernice Morris of Edmonton in 1943. They are retired and live in Medicine Hat. Helene married Wilf Manz of Josephburg in 1945. They are also retired and live in Edmonton. Herbert married Doreene Fleming of Minnedosa, Manitoba in 1952. They are living in Whitehorse, Yukon where Herb is a weatherman. I, Marie, married Herman Soch in 1946. We are living on the same farm at New Sarepta where Herman has lived all his life. Herman also works at construction. Bill married Betty Spragge of Westlock in 1954. They live in Edmonton where Bill is employed in the oil industry and Betty is with a travel agency. Betty, the baby of the family, married Bill Steinbring of Barrhead in 1956. They also live in Edmonton where Bill does carpentry and Betty works at Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots (LAMP). Besides the seven of us, there are seven grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren. A grandson died in a canoeing accident in 1981.

Life as a minister's family has had it's good times and bad times -- it's happy times and it's sad times. We are proud to be Papa's and Mom's family.

## **WEISE, PASTOR GERHARD**

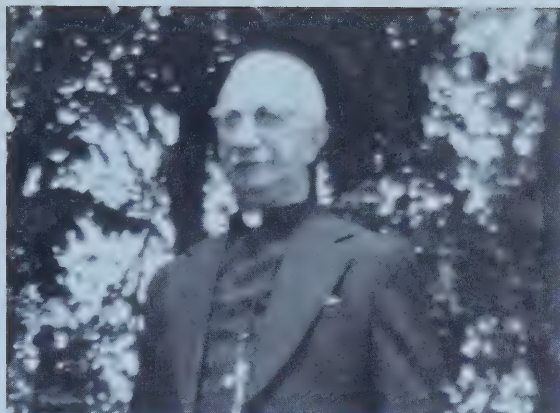
The year 1941, is as vivid today as it was some forty years ago. This, (St. John's Ardrossan) was to be my first parish, after concluding seminar.

I remember arriving in Edmonton and Pastor H. Luetkehoelter and I went to Ardrossan. My first visit was to Wm. Felske's where I stayed for some time. Later I moved to a granary across the road from their home, occupying a quarter of it, while the rest was used for grain. This was the first parsonage of the first resident Pastor.

Ed. note - Excerpts from Pastor Wiese's letter: "If it (granary) is still standing, take a picture of it for your booklet." - also see, History of congregation.

Later that fall the congregation bought a small house and moved it to the church site. I still remember the men digging the well. The roads were terrible, and when it rained many were impassable so most of my visitation was done on horse back. (The horse was supplied by Wm. Felske.) The interior of the church was refurbished and later a basement was put under it.





*Pastor G. Weise*

It was July 27, 1941, that I was ordained at the church and my first marriage (ceremony) was Gerhard Felske and his bride, Martha Otto.

I was sorry to leave after such a short stay but the Western Canada Synod had a Congregation in

Dresden, N. Dakota, which was vacant. I was the only American at the time in the Synod who was able to serve there, so the Board of American Mission asked me to take that charge.

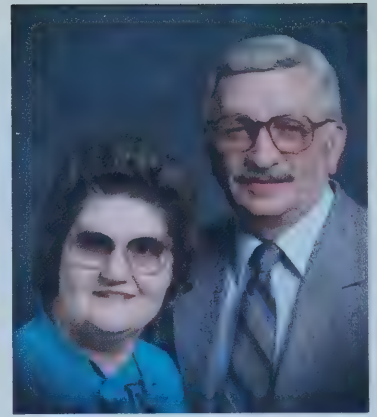
Excerpt from letter: - "Remember that it was wartime and emigration to the United States was nil. Everyone of my people were just wonderful. Most were very poor, but their hearts were pure as gold. They had their Lord and His church and regardless of the severity of the weather, they were in attendance - I still remember 99 percent of their names and can recall the faces of all of them.

Ed. note. Fifty percent of the 99 have emigrated beyond the "Sunset" with some of the remainder have taken up residence in other places. As for faces - endurance and time does not travel equally with everyone.

Pastor Gerhard Weise was born 74 years ago on November 26, 1911, at Elkton, Min., U.S.A. He married Ellen Shaquist on January 15, 1942 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. They had six girls and one boy. The boy died 10 years ago.



*Gary and Joan Adam*



*Eileen and Alfred Banick*



*Bill Berton Family - From L: Bill, Naomi, Tammy, Melita (in front)*



*Gus and Frieda Birkholz*



*Elsie Beck*



*Julius and Lydia Birkholz*



*Erwin Berndt*





*Clarence, Roy, Ken, Mary and Donna Busenius*



*Front from L Ricky, Dennis, Erwin, Winnie, Curtis, Steven Busenius*



*Rachelle, Arnold, Patricia and Jarrod Buskas.*



*Marty, Bill and Billy Birrell*



*Wilhelm and Louise Busenius*



*Heinrich Busenius*



*Lawrence, Wally, Wesley, Karen, Lydia and Sandra Busenius*





*Back: Edith, Ernie  
Front: Erwin and Selma Eggert*



*Anna Buss*



*Gus and Clara Domke*



*Rick and Denise Daubert, Thomas, Christy*



*Kim, Kevin, Dianne and Reinhard Dunse*



*Back: from L Trevor, Troy  
Front: Karen and Don Clipperton*





*Errin, Eric and Olga Felske*



*Lorne and Jessie Ewen*



*Lois and Martin Felske*



*Alan, Rose and Art Fingler*



*Eva, Harry and Leo Friedrich*



*Back: from L Wayne, Brian, Melvin  
Front: Doris, Grant, Paul Felske*



*Wilfred Friedrich*



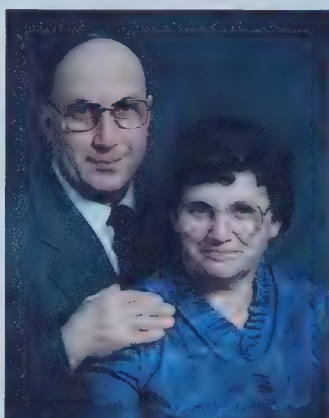
*Hilda, Janet and Paul Grams*



*Marian & Wilf Hanneman*



*Marta Haupt*



*Clarence and Elly Hirsch*



*Kelvin and Mary Hirsch*



*L. to R.: Emil, Rena and Jo-Anne Jait; Lisa and Randy Jait*



*Back: Ken and Mariann  
Front: Shannon and Shawn Kjosness*





*Elsie Kublik*



*Debbie, James, Bill and Lil Laiss*



*Ed Lind Family Back Row L-R: Elaine, Ed, Barb, Lori  
Seated: Darren, Neal*



*Fred and Vera Lueders*



*Adalbert and Eleanore Missal*



*John and Monica Neuman, Deanna, Ryan*





*Sharon Mohr*



*Wanda Platzke*



*Amy, Henry, Leona, Lisa Pretzlaff*



*Richard, Jeannette, Eileen and Oskar Pretzlaff.*





*Pastor Roy Pudrycki*



*Shanta, Carol and Liela Ramachandran*



*Dennis Read family Back Row  
L-R: Nicole, Dennis, Kimberly  
Front: Joyce, Joceyln*



*Leonard and Elsie Swonek*



*Back: Ron, David  
Front: Betty, John  
and Eleanor Rose*



*Erma and Sigmund Schilman*



*Natalie Stucke*



*Margrit Alfred Front: Jennifer, Anita, Dennis, Joyce  
Weimann*



*Ira and Richard Schmidt*



*From Back: Ida and  
Ed Thiede, Debbie,  
James and Linda*





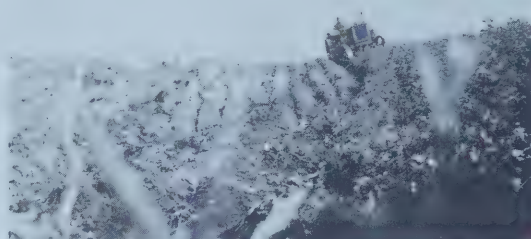
*Leocadia Jait funeral*



*Clearing brush with bulldozer*



*1944 - Tornado  
Julius Birkholz farm.*



*1950  
Felske's breaking land with the 1530 International Tractor*



*Old pioneer trails*





*Bill Busenius, crew cutting fire-wood.*



*Threshing in the late 1920's.*



*Theodore Leuders plowing.*



*Taking the cows to the water hole.*



*Standing Below: Robert Renas, Paul Felske, Mrs. Felske, Erna Felske and Mrs. Renas.*



*Hauling logs for cutting lumber*



*Bringing home the firewood - Julius*



*Gerhardt Felske and Gus Bi*



*Winter Wood Supply.*



*Sawing wood at t*





*rkholz, Wm. and Gerhardt Felske*



*Logs piled up to build the log house at Wm. Felske's*



*z clearing land with the sleigh.*



*l Busenius place.*



*Lydia Birkholz in front of chicken barn which was built in 1944.*



*Children going to a picnic.*



*Threshing at Bill Busenius farm.*



*Joe Gratrix threshing machine at Theodore Lueders farm.*



*Threshing at Klatts*



*Wayne Felske 1961.*



# Family Stories

## ADAM, Adolf

*by Gottliebe Siebenthaler*

Adolf Adam was the oldest son of eleven children. He was born on December 16, 1867 in Mariendorf Kreis Rowna Wolhynia.

On February 2, 1883, he married Emilie Keppert, in Roschischt (Lutzk), Wolhynia. A living was made by farming which was very difficult at that time. Father was a very resourceful man. Being of small stature and with no other help, he was able to devise ways in which to simplify an otherwise difficult task.

They had four daughters and two sons. One son died at two years of age.



*Oct. 31, 1923 Wedding of Augusta and Gustav Adam  
Front Row from Left Centre, Augusta, Gustav,  
Adolph Adam*

Mother (Emilie) died on November 17, 1932, in Alexandrowka, six weeks after being injured by a cow. After mother died, father came to live with us.

His son Gustav Adam living in Canada, wished father to immigrate. But having been part of our family he did not want to be separated. Thus it was arranged that his daughter, son-in-law (Gottliebe and Adam Siebenthaler) and four grandchildren would also make the long trip across the ocean. On June 8, 1949 seven excited people boarded the ship Scythia at Bremerhaven West Germany, for an eleven day ocean journey. We docked at Quebec City, Canada on June 19. From there a train took us to Ardrossan arriving on June 21.

Father was not comfortable with a life of inactivity. Even though he was eighty-two years of age, he was in excellent health. For two summers he helped his son clear some 20 acres of brush land.

After a fall down a staircase, he suffered a broken

hip from which he never recovered. He died on July 24, 1955. He is buried in the St. John's Lutheran cemetery in the Garden district.

## ADAM, ARTHUR and ERNA

*- by Arthur and Erna Adam*

Arthur - the fourth child of Gustav and Augusta Adam, was born February 26, 1930, in Compeer, Alberta (situated on the Alberta - Saskatchewan border).

The years during which Art lived in Compeer were difficult ones for the family because of the depression. He recalls one autumn when Gustav, his father, went West to earn money for the winter by working with threshing crews. On his way home he fell asleep in a railroad box car; upon awakening he found that someone had stolen all his earnings -- \$35.00. It was a sad homecoming and a difficult winter.

Arthur and his family attended the United Church in Compeer, where Pastor S. Manz held German Lutheran Services. It was the only Church building in the area, and is still in use today. The family shared in a daily devotion. Art remembers walking along the railroad track into town to attend church services.



*1985 - Adam family*

*Back: Dale, Karla, Darlene, Dwayne Middle: Bernie Belisle, Erna, Arthur, Gary Front: Lana, Leanne, Bryan, Joan*

The Gus Adam family, with all personal belongings and livestock, moved to Salisbury by train in September, 1937, and settled on a farm they had found for rent. Mr. and Mrs. William Elgert welcomed the Adam Family, and invited them to

attend Trinity Lutheran Church, where Pastor H.W. Luetkehoelter was then serving. He was also temporary pastor at St. John's Ardrossan.

Gustav, Augusta, and their six children moved from Salisbury to the Garden Community in April of 1941. The family began attending St. John's, where Arthur was confirmed by Pastor Luetkehoelter in 1944. The services at the Church were held in German; this was the language spoken at home as well.

The Adam children attended the local school, and at first found difficulties in coping with an "all English" school.

Arthur remained on the farm until 1953, at which time he got his first job at Zeidler's Door & Sash Works, following that he worked for Coca Cola.

In August of 1953 Arthur married Hildegard Radke, daughter of Edmund and Valentine Radke of Edmonton. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Paul Hanneman. Lana Darlene was born on December 2, 1954, and was baptized by Pastor Hanneman.

Hildegard became ill during the summer of 1956, and it was discovered that she had leukemia. The families were saddened by her death in November, 1956.

Arthur married Erna Widmann, daughter of Ewald and Leokadia Widmann of Ardrossan in December, 1957. They were married by Pastor Hanneman.

Erna was also a member of St. John's, and had



*1967 - Dwayne and Lana Adam.*

been active in the young people's group. A choir was started, and she joined it; later she also became involved with the Ladies Aid.

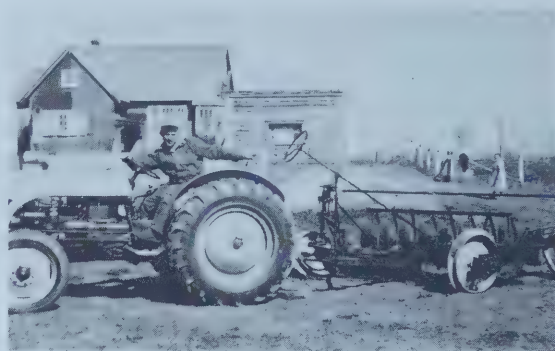
Adalbert Missal conducted a brass band, in which Arthur played his clarinet. The band and choir met regularly for practice in the homes of its participants. Many wonderful evenings of fellowship were enjoyed

by the two groups.

On May 14, 1959 Gary Arthur was born. On October 3, 1961 Dale Allen joined Lana and Gary. The family grew once more on August 25, 1964, when Dwayne Larry was born. It was a surprise for Lana when she was told she had another brother, as she had been assured by her Dad that THIS time it would be a sister, but in no time at all she was content again.

All three sons were baptized by Pastor Hanneman.

In the spring of 1963, Erna's father, Ewald, passed away after being ill with cancer. In October of 1963 a severe fire destroyed Arthur's parent's dairy barn. Even during difficult times, Art and Erna had seen how their parent's devotion to their faith had not wavered. It was not unusual to walk into their parents' homes and find the bible being read, or a Sunday morning devotion being held when it was not possible to be at Church. Erna recalls her mother reading the bible, singing hymns, and praying during severe thunderstorms.



*Arthur Adam and Gus Adam Farmstead  
1951 Ford Tractor and tiller. Mom in background.*

After working for Stelco of Canada for sixteen years, Arthur entered a business partnership with Bill Adam, and the family moved to Whitecourt in December 1971. While there, they became members of St. James Lutheran Church. Arthur served on council, while Erna sang in the choir, taught Sunday School, and participated in Ladies Aid.

Lana was confirmed by Pastor Hanneman at St. John's, Ardrossan in 1969. She married Bernard Belisle, son of Frank and Mathilda Belisle of Edmonton in June 1976. They reside in Edmonton. Arthur and Erna became proud grandparents of Leanne Marie in January 24, 1979, and a grandson, Bryan Matthew on February 2, 1981.

The spring of 1979 brought a move to Meeting Creek, Alberta. Arthur's life-long dream of being



able to farm for a living had come true! They became members of Bethany Lutheran Church.

In December of 1982, Arthur and Erna celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary. They invited family and friends to their "renewal of vows" ceremony, reception, and program. It was a most memorable evening for them.

Gary married Joan Busenius, daughter of Clarence and Mary Busenius of Ardrossan in June of 1983. They reside in Edmonton, and are members of St.

Happy Birthday, Baby Jesus  
Happy Birthday little King  
Happy Birthday dearest Savior  
Happy Birthday we will sing.

First Christmas Piece  
by Lana Adam 1958

John's and both play instruments in the junior church band. They and other band members have delighted Arthur and Erna's church congregation with musical selections.

August, 1984 brought another wedding as Dwayne married Darlene Sproule, daughter of Glen and Marion Sproule of Bashaw. They reside near Meeting Creek.

Dale resides in Edmonton and will be completing his studies at Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (N.A.I.T.) in Spring of 1985. Although a Bethany member, he enjoys being a member of St. John's Junior Band and attends there.

Arthur and Erna are busy renovating and making improvements to their farm. They are involved in many of the activities within their Church.

## **ADAM, GARY and JOAN**

*- by Gary and Joan Adam*

I, Gary Adam, was born in Edmonton, Alberta on May 14, 1959. My parents, Arthur and Erna Adam, were at that time residing in the Ardrossan area and were members of St. John's Lutheran Church. I was baptized by Pastor Paul Hanneman and later attended Sunday School at St. John's. I have one older sister, Lana, and two younger brothers, Dale and Dwayne. We lived in the Garden District on the Wye Road on a small farm. Dad also worked at the Stelco of Canada Steel Mill in Edmonton. I consider myself fortunate to have been brought up on a farm and have many warm memories from my childhood days. In those days the Wye Road was gravel and lightly travelled. Summer walks, or bicycle rides to the

Garden Store, threequarter mile east of our home were common and usually capped with a popsicle or bottle of pop.



*1970 - Dale, Gary and Dwayne Adam*

I have a love for machinery and spent a lot of time driving tractor for Dad from six years old and up. By the time I was ten years old Dad had purchased a second tractor - an old Case (orange with big fenders) and gave it to me as my own. I was so proud that I would jump at any opportunity to drive it - even hauling away manure on a stone boat (wooden skid pulled behind).

Dad had a talent for building things of metal or wood and I was very excited in helping him build a motorized three-wheel go-cart for us boys. This had two wheels in the back and one in front. We, along with many neighborhood kids, (and adults) spent many fun filled hours riding it. Somehow, once in a while the go-cart would wind up in Mom's dahlias' or her potato patch. It seemed no excuse was good enough when this happened, until one evening, with everyone watching, Dad mowed through Mom's dahlia's with it!

Then, late in 1970 my parents decided to go into a tire business in Whitecourt, Alberta. While in Whitecourt, I attended church at St. James Lutheran and was confirmed there by Pastor Baron. Later I served as head usher.

In April of 1977 I took a school tour of London, England, Belgium, Holland, France, Switzerland and Italy. In February of 1978 I spent a month in Germany visiting relations with an Aunt and Uncle and a buddy of mine. I finished high school in Whitecourt and graduated in June of 1978. During high school I had several jobs. I worked at a service station, a construction company, and drove a truck for a while. I obtained a private pilot licence while in Whitecourt and enjoyed many hours of scenic flying in that area.

Mom and Dad got tired of the business life, so they

sold out, then bought a farm near Meeting Creek, Alberta in the spring of 1979. Our family became members of the Bethany Lutheran Church near Donald, Alberta. I still enjoy the opportunity to go out to the farm and help out. My parents have even kept that same three-wheeled go-cart and it still makes an occasional trip to the garden or into the trees. In October, 1980, I started working for a car and truck leasing company so I moved to Edmonton.

I, (Joan Adam), was born January 13, 1960 in Edmonton, Alberta. My parents are Clarence and Mary Busenius. I am the second oldest of a family of four children. When I was a few months old, we moved from Edmonton to the Ardrossan area where my parents still live. Dad built our house on the far portion of my Grandparents' land. It was close enough for us kids to "run away" to Grandma's.

We attended St. John's almost every Sunday. Like all the other girls, my younger sister and I would wear our best gloves and hats to church. Mom would try to dress us alike. Sunday morning, just before church, Dad would practice his baritone for the church band. At church, we listened to many German services, not understanding anything. Later, more English was added to the services.

Traditionally every year, a children's Christmas Program was held on Christmas Eve. We would get dressed up in our best clothes and recite lines from the Christmas story. Later, I became a Sunday School teacher and a member of the youth group. I was confirmed by Pastor Otto Goos in 1975.

The summer holidays were never long enough. There is a small bush behind the house where all the "forts" were built. We started with making binder twine forts (we could never figure out why Mom wouldn't let us sleep out there), advanced to cardboard, and finally to wood. Early summer, I would pick wild strawberries along the roadside. This was almost a daily routine. It took a long time to fill the bottom of the cup.

Springtime was our favorite time of year. The lower parts of our land and the neighbors land would flood. One year, us kids decided to build a raft. We were tired of using a feeding trough. We found four barrels and had Dad drag it to the "lake" with the tractor. We pushed it into the water. It was afloat! It floated for about five seconds. Everyone was so excited! When it started tipping to one side, we all ran to the other side. Of course, we all bailed out into water up to our waists. For my youngest brother, it was up to his neck. We all went home with the usual "bootfull".

I attended Wye School up until Grade Six and then attended Ardrossan Jr. Sr. High. I graduated in

1978.



*June 1983 - Joan and Gary Adam*

After graduation, I attended Alberta College taking an "Electronic Book-keeping Machine" course. My first job was as a posting machine operator for the Treasury Branch. I worked there for three years. I am presently working for the Provincial Government, Department of Energy and Natural Resources as a cashier.

I have done a fair amount of travelling. A friend of mine and I went to Germany in the summer of 1980. I have also been to San Francisco and on another trip to Los Angeles and Tijuana. My husband and I went to see Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming in 1984.

Gary and I dated for almost five years and on June 4, 1983 were married at St. John's by Pastor Roy Pudrycki and Pastor Robert Jacobson (Donald's pastor). We are both members of St. John's and play in the youth band. Gary was elected as a councillor in 1985. We presently reside in downtown Edmonton.

## **ADAM, GUSTAV and AUGUSTA**

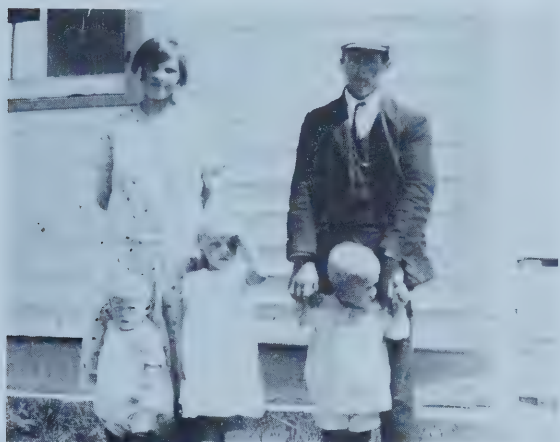
*by Lana Belisle*

Gustav Adam born October 13, 1897 in Dubno, Poland, son of Adolf Adam senior (1867-1955). Augusta Eisert born May 28, 1902 in Rovno, Poland. They were married September 30, 1923.

Gustav and Augusta emigrated to Canada, landing at St. Johns, New Brunswick, December 11, 1927 with their children Emilie, William and Leon. They arrived in Compeer, Alberta, sponsored by August Raesler of Compeer. During the Depression Gustav worked in the community doing a variety of jobs; carpentry; blacksmith work; basket weaving from



willows; anything to bring money home to help his family through hard times. Augusta assisted in home births and home care. While living in Compeer, Arthur, Adolf and Olga were born to them.



1928

*Augusta and Gustav Adam Leon, Emilie, William*

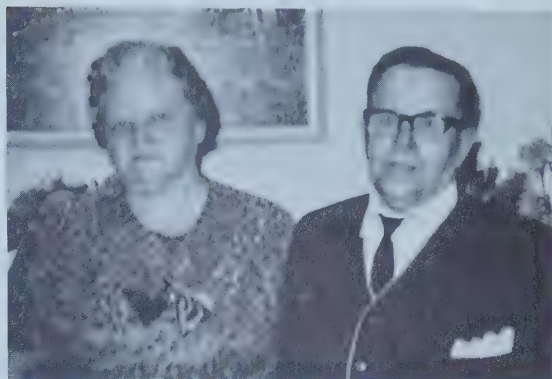
September 1937 brought a family move to Salisbury, Alberta where they rented farmland and farmed. In March 1941, their son, Gussie, was born. At that time Gustav and Augusta attended Trinity Lutheran Church in Edmonton. Pastor H. Luetkehoelter, serving minister, advised Gustav and Augusta of a farm for sale in the Garden district with a German Lutheran Church nearby. They decided to make the investment approximately \$1300.00 to the C.P.R. for one quarter with forty acres cleared and no buildings, three quarter mile west of the Garden Store, on the Wye Road.

Gustav built a granary 12x30 feet for their first home. Members of St. John's Lutheran Church formed a moving bee and helped move the Adam family to their new home.

Gustav and Augusta became active members of St. John's. Gustav was a church trustee, builder of some pews, the pulpit, lectern and helped in many other projects. Augusta became involved in the Ladies Aid, and was always willing to lend a hand and donate baking or cooking, for some event.

They continued to expand their farm operation, building a large home, barns and other buildings. Gustav and Augusta were one of the first farmers in the area to install pipe line milking. Their farm became the "Adam Dairy Farm". A tragedy in October 1963 occurred when a fire destroyed the dairy barn. The family, members of the congregation and community helped Gustav and Augusta through a

difficult time and later a new barn was constructed.



*Augusta and Gustav Adam*

Gustav and Augusta remained in the Garden district until their retirement from the dairy farm in 1966. They purchased a home in the Bonnie Doon area of Edmonton, still remaining members of St. John's. They enjoyed any festive occasion where their family would gather together. Christmas was exciting and a memorable time. Their family attended the Children's Christmas Eve program at St. John's and then would go to their home for the Christmas dinner - a meal deliciously prepared by Augusta and blessed by Gustav, a meal lasting all evening. A Christmas tree surrounded by gifts - children and grandchildren awaiting the approval to unwrap. Later smiles, hugs and kisses and paper everywhere. A moment they loved.

God blessed Gustav and Augusta with fifty years of marriage. A celebration in commemoration, of their fiftieth anniversary was held in St. John's church in September of 1973. In October of the same year after a short illness, Augusta suddenly passed away. Gustav had the faith to carry on until his passing January 30, 1976.

Their children and families:

Emilie married to Mike Serink residing in the Ardrossan area. Her children: Marilyn (Corinne), Karen, Richard, Trudy, Janet, Anita and Pat.

William married Enid Rowe, residing in Whitecourt. Their children: Darcy, Daryl, Dwight and Darren. (see their story)

Leon, the second son of Gustav and Augusta Adam, was born in Dubno, Poland, February 15, 1927. He arrived in Compeer, December 18, 1927, a baby of eight months. He lived in Compeer with his parents from 1927 to September 20, 1937 when his family moved to Salisbury. In 1941 Leon left the family home to work at the McGhan Dairy Farm,

milking cows and doing chores. While there he met Luella Broder, the local teacher whom he subsequently married in 1951. From that union two children were born, a daughter Janelle and a son, David. Janelle married Wayne Hutton of Bluffton. They have two daughters, Shireen and Jennifer. Leon and Luella live in Rimbey where Leon is employed by Gulf, as operator of Rimbey Pipeline.

Arthur, the third son, is married to Erna Widmann and live in Meeting Creek (see their story).



*1974 - Aerial View of Adolf Adam's Dairy Farm*

Adolf, the fourth son of Gustav and Augusta Adam, was born in Compeer, January of 1933. He lived in Salisbury and then the Garden home, with his father and mother. Adolf attended St. John's Lutheran Church where we went to Sunday School and was confirmed by Pastor Hanneman in the old church. For many years Adolf and his Dad operated the dairy farm. In 1966 he married Lillian Gagne in the new church, by Pastor Hanneman. They bought the dairy farm from his parents and continued to operate it. They were blessed with three sons, Lorne, Shane and Allen. They sold the dairy in 1976 and sub-divided their land. In 1979 Adolf and his family moved to Rimbey where they are presently farming.

Olga married Eric Felske, residing in the Ardrossan area. Their children: Verna, Lorraine and Errin. (See their story)

Gussie married Faye Moulding, residing in the Bashaw area. Their children: Tammy, Cheryl and Connie.

## **ADAM, WILLIAM and ENID**

*by Bill Adam*

William was born January 18, 1926 in Dubno, Poland, then emigrated to Canada with my parents and one brother, Leon and sister, Emelia. They arrived in Compeer, at Dad's Uncle Raeslers, December 27, 1927.

While they lived in Compeer, Adolph, Olga and

Arthur were born. In September, 1937 we moved lock, stock and barrel to a quarter section eight miles east of Edmonton, which is now Sherwood Park. We rented the Lubrenz land here for three years.

In December, 1941 Dad bought a farm (quarter section of land) half mile west of the Garden Store and moved here in 1941. I was confirmed in St. John's Lutheran Church. I helped Dad on the farm right up to the end of 1947.

I then found work in Edmonton where I met Enid Mary Rowe of Fairview, Alberta. On June 23, 1951 we were married in this church by Rev. Paul Hanneman. Darcy was born while we were living in Edmonton (1952). Daryl was born in 1955 while we were living on an acreage by the new Wye school.

In 1956 we moved to Drayton Valley, Alberta, here Dwight and Darren were born, Dwight in 1958 and Darren in 1964.

In 1964 we were transferred to Whitecourt, where we are still living.

The letters in the front of the church, "Honor thy God in the Highest" were made by me, although they are in German. Darcy, Daryl and Dwight were all baptized in the church.

## **ANDERS, JULIUS and LYDIA**

*by E. Anders*

Born in June, 1898, Julius Anders was one of a poor family of seven children raised in Poland. He attended school for six years. At seven years of age, he was hired out as a farm worker when school was out. Living in a part of Poland that was, for a time, claimed by Germany, he served in the German Army from 1916-1918 during the First World War. In 1919, when he returned home, he was drafted into the Polish Army after that territory was reclaimed by Poland.



*Julius Anders  
1938 Original three-room house*



His wife to be, Lydia Kluge, lived in the same area. Her upbringing was also difficult. Losing her parents at an early age, (mother at age 6 and father at age 7), she and her sisters were raised by their older brother, Julius Kluge and his wife Ida (late members of St. John's).

On May 6, 1926, Julius and Lydia were married. Their ambitions were greater than the promises of that land. And so it was that they decided to emigrate to Canada. Finances would not allow them to take this trip together. It was to be that Julius would lead the way and find a place for them to settle.

On March 8, 1927, Julius Anders set foot on the new land. Halifax was his first taste of Canada after an eleven day and very rough trip across the Atlantic from Europe. Four days later he was in Edmonton with three travel partners -- Robert Schmidt, Gus Stewin and Robert Drews. After staying with friends in the Ellerslie area for the first weeks, he found work with the C.P.R. where this 29 year old immigrant earned 30¢ per hour. It wasn't until August of that year, with some financial help from his brother Emil in New Jersey, that Lydia could join him. Julius met her at the Strathcona station where she and her sisters, Alvina and Wanda (Kluge) were waiting. Their trip to Ellerslie was direct -- via the C.P.R. tracks on board a hand-pump "speeder" which these ladies had to operate while Julius pedaled his bicycle on the road alongside.



*1981 - Julius Anders family:*

*L to R: Evelyn, Erwin, Lydia, Julius, Lorraine, Herb*

Living with the Karl Werner family in Ellerslie for nearly a year, the young couple got sufficiently established to strike out on their own. Julius and Lydia rented a farmhouse just west of the Calgary Trail on the Ellerslie Road. One year at this location saw further progress. Here they raised chickens, two cows, and two pigs. Eventually, with the help of the C.P.R. doctor, their first child, Evelyn, arrived.

Ambition overtook them and on April 3, 1929, they moved to Ardrossan. One hundred and sixty acres of bush costing \$2,700 (including \$1,100 worth of improvements - a two room shack, three acres of cleared land and fence) was to be home and source of livelihood for the coming years. Located on the northeast corner of the Wye Road and Range Road 221, the Anders eventually found themselves conveniently central to school and store with about a mile and a half to church. It didn't start that way, though. The first years were meagre. In 1929, chickens, pigs and a few head of cattle was the mainstay of the farm operation. Rabbits shot in the bush were a welcome supplement on the dinner table. Leftovers were fed to the chickens. The first crop of oats was taken off in 1939 - the yield was 100 bushels. Oats sold for about eight cents a bushel in those days.

Nineteen-thirty was a good year in other ways. A son was born to Julius and Lydia on March 15. That's when Herb arrived. The cattle herd increased by one that day too -- a calf, later to become a milk cow, was born. It is hard to say whether it was sentiment or the fact that she was rather skinny and wouldn't have sold for much at the packing plant, but that cow was part of the herd for twenty-one years. "Bossy" was her name and Herb milked her many a time.

Julius and Lydia were raised with the Lord and it was to be no different in Canada. Fortunately, a small congregation had been organized and services were held periodically in the Felske residence. It was here that Herb was baptized (Evelyn had been baptized in Ellerslie). Involvement with the congregation was part of the Anders' life in Ardrossan. Services in the old Garden School were among the early recollections. Then came the time for the church to be built. Julius recalls working with the early founders as they cut spruce and poplar at North Cooking Lake. The logs were moved by horse-drawn sleighs to a nearby sawmill for cutting into lumber. Eventually, it dried, was cut and nailed to form the church building -- the place of worship for the members and friends of St. John's Lutheran Church.

During their time in Ardrossan, Julius, Lydia and their family were active members. Julius held the office of Secretary-treasurer for a number of years and represented the congregation at Synodical conventions in Winnipeg, Wetaskiwin and Barrhead. Lydia was an active member of the Ladies Aid and Herb played the alto horn in the Band. Evelyn, Herb, and later, Erwin, were confirmed at St. John's.

Although it has been more than 30 years since they moved from Ardrossan, Julius and Lydia still feel a

part of this congregation. It is their wish, when they are called home to the Lord, that they should be laid to rest here along with their infant son, Lydia's brother Julius Kluge, and sister Leokadia Jait, their spouses and their many friends and former neighbors.

Like so many in those times, they endured the depression. Farm produce was neither wanted, nor sufficiently priced. Yet they lived, enjoyed their blessings, and always had friends. Visiting with congregational members, pastors, relatives, neighbors and the occasional visitor from Edmonton was their joy. Hardy home-cooked meals with their own farm produce were the trademark of these farmer - to - farmer visits. As the adults visited, the children would busy themselves playing "auntie - eye - over", "hide and seek" or just otherwise go about getting their "Sunday clothes" dirty.

Maybe it was because they were emerging from the depression that it was now time to enlarge the family. It was January, 1937 with the help of Dr. Keillor and Mrs. Hildebrandt in her Edmonton home for expectant mothers that Erwin was born. Julius and Lydia were now parents to a girl and two boys. The family might have been larger yet in March, 1939, when another infant son arrived. This was to be the Lord's though, and he was called home two days later.

Then came the war years and, as many of the community members recall, German - speaking folks were viewed with suspicion and treated accordingly by some. The Anders family managed that without major problems -- the family was too young for the draft. As the war neared its end, one more was added to the Anders family. In the comfort of the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Lorraine was born.

The two-room house, with the later addition of a third room was becoming rather crowded. The kitchen, living room, and bedroom all had to serve as sleeping quarters. In the summer, Herb and Erwin would sleep in the attic of the garage. An improvised wake-up system with a cow bell, rope and pulleys is what was used when it was time to get up and milk the cows. Because of the nature of this unpleasant task, and the beauty of sleep, some mornings Lydia found it necessary to pull on that rope more than once.

By 1948, it was time to move to a bigger house and at the same time, expand the farming operation. Julius then rented the "bush quarter" to the southwest along with the next quarter south -- both from Rex Ireland. The latter quarter had a three bedroom house and better buildings all-round. This became home for the next three years. It was about

this time that Evelyn had left home to pursue her own career in Edmonton. A few more years of farming and it was apparent that Herb had no interest in making this his occupation. Erwin seemed even less so inclined -- he was even afraid of horses! With that, Julius and Lydia decided it's off to city life. It was November, 1951 when the Anders family left Ardrossan to live in Edmonton. Many friendships and memories remain from the treasure-filled years in this friendly community.

Julius worked in construction for a number of years before retiring in 1968. He and Lydia were able to travel to Europe and the United States on a number of holidays. They still live in their own home and, as in those early years, look forward to their friends' visits.

Evelyn has become Mrs. Don Sampson and they live in Calgary. Their three sons have moved to their own homes. Herb married Ruth, daughter of Rev. Fritz Rehn. Now living in Lethbridge along with their youngest daughter, they have a son and two other daughters all living in Edmonton and area. Erwin married Elfriede, Ruth's sister and they have two daughters. Lorraine became Mrs. Carl Sorensen. Carl, Lorraine and their daughter and son live in Sherwood Park. That European couple that arrived in 1927 now have eleven grandchildren, one great grandchild and, at this time of writing, are awaiting a promised second. The Lord has blessed them indeed.

## **BANICK, ALFRED and EILEEN**

*by Alfred Banick*

I was born in Edmonton on June 18, 1918. My parents were Theodore and Bertha Banick. I was the eldest in a family of four.

My Dad worked in the City of Edmonton. When he was laid off, he decided he would try and get work on the railroad. In the spring of 1920 we moved to the Looma district where he had found work.



*1952 - Larry with dog and chickens. Raymond in background.*



During the next few years that my parents lived in Looma, their family grew by one baby girl, named Erna, and their possessions grew to three cows, a few chickens and a few pigs.

They even managed to save a little to make a down payment on a home. They chose the Village of New Sarepta where there was a store, post office and church, all within walking distance, since we did not own a horse and buggy or a car.

I started my schooling in Maple Hill School which was almost three miles from home. It meant about an hour's walk in the morning; in the evenings it varied. Sometimes when my friend and I got side-tracked looking for bird nests or frogs, it took longer, something my mother let me know was a no-no in kind of a harsh way, or so I thought.

My first teacher for the next two years was Mr. Walter Kuhl. Then a school was built in New Sarepta where I attend classes, until we moved to the Fultonvale district.

My Dad and Mom planned that someday they would buy a farm and make a living from it so that Dad would not have to work away from home. So in the summer of 1928, they bought a farm in the Fultonvale district and in April of 1929 we made the move. The family had grown to four children, two more daughters, Hilda and Audrey.

The years ahead were tough during the Hungry Thirties, Dad kept on working while Mother and children tended the farm. Since I was the oldest, I helped with chores mornings and evenings.

By this time we had a Model T Ford car, so Dad would come home Saturday evening bringing the groceries, some clothing and whatever else was

needed. He then would go back on Sunday evening. Our outings would be to go to Church at Ellerslie, which was ten miles away, a long way in those days, especially with no gravelled roads. When it rained, we stayed home.

In June of 1933, I left school and took over the farming. My setup for putting in the crop consisted of three horses and a hand plough which you had to hold up by two handles. As the horses pulled it along, it would turn over one furrow at a time. Then in the evening, just before going home, I would hook up to harrows which again I would walk behind to break up the lumps as the soil was clay. After a day of doing this, there was no need to go jogging to keep fit.

As the years went by, I acquired riding machinery, still horse drawn, and then came the big step in farming for me - a John Deere steel-wheeled tractor to do the land work.

It was not all work and no play. In the summer I would play ball, go to picnics, go boating at Cooking Lake; in the winter I played some hockey, went to skating parties, sleigh rides and dances and on Sundays we would go to Church.

In the year of 1940, we had a Pastor come out from Edmonton that held services in homes in the community. It was decided to build a small church of our own. I was elected along with two other people on Council and with a building committee of three, plans were made to build. By December of 1941 we had a church of our own.

While attending one of the Church Festivals, which was morning service, lunch at noon and then afternoon service, a group of young people were sitting around the table having lunch. It was then that I was introduced to Eileen Niederhaus.

In 1942 my folks had moved to Edmonton. My batching might have been fun in some ways, but cooking, washing dishes and keeping up with the housework left something to be desired, so in the fall of 1943, Eileen Niederhaus and I were married.

Eileen and I were blessed with five children. Our eldest son Raymond married Betty Zilinski of Thorhild. They have three children; Blain, Tina and Theo. Raymond is working as a Field Supervisor for an oil company. He spent a number of years in Swan Hills and now lives in Edmonton.

Our second son, David, married Lynn Lane. They have two children, Leah and Steven. David works as a Labor Relations Consultant for the Government of Alberta. David and his family live in Sherwood Park.

Larry, our third son, married Shelly Quarton and have a family of three - Tylor, Torrey and Tamara. Larry is employed as an accountant with the



1955 - Banick family  
Eileen holding Dianne, Alfred Centre: Raymond and  
Larry Front: Margeruite and David.



1955 - Left: David, Eileen, Raymond, Larry, Dianne and Margeruie Banick.

Government of Alberta Health and Welfare. Larry and his family live in Millwoods.

Our fourth child was a daughter, Margeruie. She married Gordon Steadman. They had a family of four children, Shannon, Theresa, Kimberley and Gordon Junior who only lived to the age of two and a half years. Gordon and Margeruie owned a towing company in Kelowna and just recently moved to Calgary where Gordon is now employed by the Alberta Motor Association.

Our youngest child is Dianne who married John Durant. Their union was blessed with two children, Christopher and Rona. Dianne works for a Court Reporting firm and John is in sales and keeps and sells riding horses. They live on an acreage in the Fultonvale district.

When Eileen and I were first married, we continued in mixed farming. Then in 1952 we went into dairy farming, shipping milk. In 1967, we sold the dairy and I started driving school bus for the County of Strathcona. Two years later I bought my own bus and went on as a contract driver until June of 1983. Being a school bus driver was trying at times, but the fond memories I have of some of the students outweigh the trying times - to see shy little ones get on the bus for the first time and then as the years went by grow into fine young adults.

As I look back on the years when there was only two families as our neighbors, whenever you needed help of any kind or had to borrow something, we would call on one another. A neighbor was your best friend, even closer than a relative who might live miles away. But changes have come with the years. Now we have dozens of families living around us on acreages. It's not too often that you think of going to your neighbor to borrow anything; you get in your car and go to town and get it. That's progress, I

guess, but as people, we have lost the closeness we had as neighbors in those days.

As I am writing this in the year of 1984, I still live on the same place that I moved to as a boy. I am enjoying my retirement years. Eileen and I have good health, belong to a Seniors Club which keeps us very active and are involved in our Church, do some volunteer work and some travelling. But what gives us the most joy in life is our thirteen grandchildren, our children and our many friends.

## **BANICK, THEODORE and BERTHA**

*by Hilda Jenne*

Theodore Banick was born May 18, 1889 in Justoff, Poland. He was the second son of Michael and Wilhelmina Banick. He received his education here and then worked on neighboring farms as a means of livelihood.

At the age of twenty-four he emigrated to Helena, Montana in the United States to join his brother, Rudolph, living there at the time. He worked with his brother in construction for a number of years. In 1916 stories of life in Canada attracted him, so he made his way to Edmonton to undertake a new life there. He again tried his hand at construction work and hoped to establish a permanent place for himself.

In 1917 he married Bertha Arndt (born December 10, 1897), daughter of Julius and Juliana Arndt (nee Gravon). Their son Alfred Otto was born June 18, 1918.

In this period the flu epidemic broke out taking many lives. Theodore and Bertha survived but due to the severity of the illness, Theodore was unable to work for some time. He ended up among the many unemployed. They moved in with relatives on a farm in the Clover Bar district for a short period of time while Theodore continued searching for work.

In 1920 he was fortunate enough to obtain employment with the Canadian National Railways in Looma, Alberta. A log building which had been empty for years was renovated and the family made this their new home. A daughter, Erna Gertrude, was born here June 16, 1920.

After two years the family moved again. This time to New Sarepta and employment continued with the railway. In this village two more daughters were born, Hilda Therese on October 17, 1924 and Audrey Dora on June 2, 1928.

Alfred attended school at Maple Hill for two years and in the spring of 1929, the year the depression began, the family moved again, this time to a farm in the Fultonvale district. Despite the depression and the hard work involved in farm life, it was a good life



here.

The family grew up, the girls moving to the city and jobs while Alfred stayed and took over the family farm. Alfred married Eileen Niederhaus in 1943. They are parents of five children, three sons Raymond, David and Larry; also two daughters, Margeruite and Dianne.



*1950 - Theodore and Bertha Banick standing in front of their home on the farm.*

Alf and Eileen were blessed with fourteen grandchildren, but a little grandson, Gordie, passed away at two and a half years.

Erna married Edward Bearham and had a son Kenneth. She was married a second time to Gordon Payne and there was a son Gordie from this marriage. Erna passed away in 1974. The family were farming in the St. Paul area at the time.

Hilda married Frank Jenne of Edmonton. They have two sons, Richard and Randall, and a daughter, Laurie, all residing in Edmonton. They have two granddaughters. Frank is employed with the Canadian National Railways.

Audrey married John Robert Welby of Edmonton. They had three sons, James, Ronald and Theodore (Teddy). There are three grandchildren. Bob passed away in 1964 and Teddy in 1965. Audrey resides in the City and is employed at Edmonton City Telephones.

Theodore Banick passed away in 1952 and Bertha moved to the City. She died in 1963.

Alfred and Eileen still reside on the home place, are actively involved in the community and are enjoying their retirement.

## **ELSIE BECK**

*by Elsie Beck*

My parents, William and Christina Felske, had seven children. I am the second oldest. The small

family emigrated to Canada from Repkau, Poland in 1914.

My oldest sister and I were born in Repkau, and my three brothers and two sisters were born in Canada.

I recall a little of my early years. My Auntie and Uncle Robert and Julianna Renas, had no children so I went to live with them for three years. Naturally, my parents had agreed to this. I was only two at the time. I was very shy so when company came I hung on to Auntie for dear life. One incident I recall rather well is when boiling water from a kettle was spilled on me, scalding my leg. I still have the scar.

Uncle and Auntie treated me as their own child right from the beginning. Uncle always called me "kint" (child), or "Schussel" (silly) until the day he died.

Upon returning home I went to Glen Garden School. The school also served as a church in the early days, so we went to school from Monday to Friday and to church and Sunday School on Sundays.

When all the farm work and the chores were done, we would hear dad singing his favorite hymns. He loved to sing. Mother and I also would lead the



*1940 - Elsie Beck*

singing at the Ladies Aid, which she continued to do for thirty-five years.

By three o'clock on Good Friday, the family would gather for singing and the reading of the crucifixion story.

At the age of sixteen, I went to work for two months for Pastor and Mrs. Freitag, who were expecting another child. I did the household duties and took care of the little boy.

In 1937, I was married to Emil Beck. We moved to the farm where my son presently lives. In 1968, Emil and I moved across the road to our new house.

Emil passed away in February of 1973.

We had two girls and one boy. Audrey married Ron Otto in 1964 and is living on a farm in the New Sarepta area. They have two children, Mitchell and Shelly. Marilyn is married to Bill Black in 1979, and lives in Edmonton. Richard married Judy Rice in 1968, and has one boy, Kelly. They live on the old home farm.

I have kept very busy all my life. I sang in the choir at church and belong to both ladies groups.

On Mondays I bowl, on Tuesdays I work as a volunteer at the Seven Day Adventist Home in Sherwood Park. Twice a month I go to the Garden Senior Citizens meetings. I have enjoyed organizing the horn of plenty at church. One year I organized around a bale of hay and brought Pastor Pudrycki a dahlia as big as his face.

I have travelled within Canada and overseas. On one trip, we took in eleven countries in Europe.

I have also been to various other countries including Fiji, Australia, New Zealand, Southern States, Alaska and many Caribbean Islands. I have some good and bad memories of the past.

My children and grandchildren live quite close by and visit very often. One of the joys is that God leaves the future open to new and beautiful happenings.

## THE GUSTAV BECK FAMILY

- by Wanda Ceretzke

Our parents, Gustav and Matilda Beck, emigrated from Lublin, Poland in 1927 bringing with them three children: Olga, three years; Wanda, two years; and Rosalie, eight months old. They arrived in Edmonton in March. Father began employment as a ranch-hand on Dr. Keillor's fox farm.

In 1929 father put a down payment on a quarter section of CPR land in the Ardrossan area where he built a small, two-room home for his family. Since he



1928 - The Beck family as they arrived in Edmonton. From Left; Mathilda, Rosalia, Olga, Wanda and Gustav.

did not know English, the language problem was a real barrier. He, along with several neighboring men, attended evening classes in the local school where they received instruction in English as a second language.

Three children were added to the Beck family: Alice, born in 1928, Alfred, a long-awaited son, was born in 1929, and Martha, born in 1931. (An accident claimed Martha's life the following year).

In 1932 our father became ill and spent most of that year in the General Hospital. In May, 1933 he passed away at the age of 33 years.

This caused a real hardship for mother as she was left with five small children and she was not, as yet, bilingual. Since it was impossible to maintain the payments on our land, CPR reclaimed all but ten acres which our family had title to. Mother was a diligent worker. She made hay for the two cows wherever it could be found, be it a farmer's slough or the grassy roadsides. She also made all the children's clothes, which were passed down as long as they were wearable.

In 1939 Mother had a much needed new house built, paying for it with the limited income derived from whatever casual labour she could find. All of the family attended the St. John's Lutheran Church, and the children were all confirmed there.

In 1944 Mother sold her acreage to Herbert Fleming and bought a home in Edmonton where she became employed as a cook at the University Campus Cafeteria. After her own family grew up and left home, Mother raised several families of foster children.

The Beck children, now with children and grandchildren of their own, all reside in the Edmonton area.



The five Beck children, Olga, Wanda, Rosalia, Alice and Alfred



Olga married Art Rinske (now deceased), in 1941 and has three children.

Wanda married Arthur Ceretzke in 1943 and they have four children, all of whom reside in the Sherwood Park area.

Alice married William Davies of Abbotsford, BC, in 1948 and has six sons.

Rosalie married Stan McKenzie in 1950 and has a daughter.

Alfred married Jean Provost in 1956, and they have five children. Alfred presently owns and operates an independent business in Edmonton -- A. Beck Enterprises Ltd.

Mother, now 84 years old and confined to a wheelchair, resides in an Edmonton auxiliary hospital. Looking back, our parents endured many hardships, but we thank God for His many provisions and for his evident blessing upon our family.

## **BERNDT, GOTTFRIED and AUGUSTE**

*- by Irma Schilman*

Gottfried Berndt was born in Kozak, Russia in the year 1898. He grew up with the hardships of poverty due to the wars of the time.

There were seven in his family. He and three brothers were evacuated to Germany in 1918, where they worked at various occupations. Gottfried married Auguste Buss in 1923, who was also born in Kozak, Russia in 1897. She came from a family of six, and all got to Germany in 1918 after the war, finding work and establishing themselves there. In 1924 Pauline, sister of Auguste, came to Canada, sponsored by Uncle Buss of Hay Lakes.

In 1927, Uncle was willing to bring Gottfried, Auguste and the two children over to Canada. They arrived May 19, 1927, stayed the first year with Pauline, who was married to Adolf Schellert, and lived in the Ellerslie district. Gottfried worked for different farmers, ranging as far as Bruderheim, stooking and threshing. In the next three years they rented four different farm homes. They kept cows and pigs and chickens for their own needs. Gottfried's two brothers from Germany joined them in 1928. The three brothers would take contracts with farmers - brushing, picking roots and whatever earned them a dollar.

In 1930 Gottfried bought his own farm ten miles east of Leduc in Rollyview. Here, he and his wife worked hard during the Depression. The land was lousy with Quack Grass, but they were determined to kill it. Auguste would rake, pile and burn it, while Gottfried would be working with the horses. They also made the hay together. Auguste, while always at

her husband's side, besides doing her own work, managed to raise her three children, by teaching them to look after themselves. Then, at the end of the day, she provided the family with good food.

She churned butter and sold it for groceries. They always had meat on the table. She would make her own sausage and bake bread just like others in those years. New clothes were sewn or hand-downs altered to make fit.



*1947 - Gottfried Berndt Family*

*Back: Helen, Irma, Selma Front, Gottfried, Erwin, August*

In 1934 Gottfried was stricken with appendicitis, had an appendectomy and was unable to work for a while. Auguste kept the ball rolling with the farm work.

In 1935 Gottfried became ill again, this time by a stroke, paralyzing his right side. He was hospitalized for six weeks. Coming home was a great happiness for the family. He had to learn to walk again, but slowly got better. This misfortune forced him to give up the farm he had purchased, sell the stock and move to Looma. They kept six cows and chickens to start all over again. They rented farm buildings and pasture from August Kallis and lived one year here. The next move was to Gottlieb Henschel's place which they rented for two years. Here Gottfried was beginning to feel better and was able to work again, stooking and threshing for farmers. They participated at Sunday church services in Wimbledon School usually held at three o'clock with Rev. R. Krisch officiating. Irma attended confirmation classes at Ellerslie Lutheran church and was confirmed in 1938. The folks loved going to church and attended as much as possible, travelling with horse drawn vehicles.

In 1939 the Berndt family rented and moved to Walter's place in the Fultonvale District. They were eager to get ahead. They drove with horses to Edmonton to haul in the farm produce and purchase their needs. By now they had a son called Erwin.

In 1942 they moved to Uncas and purchased some property which they could call their own once more. They began to attend St. John's Lutheran Church, Ardrossan, still driving with horses. They struggled to make a living on the partially cleared quarter of land.

Erwin and Selma went to school at Uncas. Irma married Siegmund Schilman on December 29, 1942. They moved to Siegmund's farm in 1943. Helen married Herman Hahn in 1944. They farmed in the Fultonvale District.

Selma was married in 1949 to Adolf Hahn. They also farmed in the Fultonvale District.

Tragedy hit in 1952 when Gottfried had a severe heart attack and died on April 30. This left Auguste and her son Erwin alone. Erwin was only 13 years old, when he left school to tend to the farm and livestock. It seems easy to say that they had a hard life, but they were always thankful to the Lord for whatever they received.

Erwin Berndt was born in Edmonton on November 28, 1938. He had his schooling in Uncas and left school at an early age. He wanted to continue farming from where his father had left off. He had a hard life trying to learn for himself, but having Mother at his side, he had someone to lean on. They have farmed since 1952 and have added many changes to the place. He attends St. John's Lutheran Church whenever he can.

## **A TRIBUTE TO GRANDMA BERNDT (AUGUSTE)**

*by Eric Shilman*

Grandma was born November 17, 1897 in Kozak, Russia, the second youngest of a family of seven, to her parents, Wilhelm and Eleonore Buss.

The first major event in Grandma's life was the First World War which she and her family experienced. In 1918 the family moved to Arnswalde, Germany and in order to help support the family, Grandma worked for a farmer.

In 1923 Grandma married Gottfried Berndt and later had two daughters, my mother Irma and Aunt Helen.

Due to the beckoning of her Uncle Peter Buss and her sister, Pauline Schellert, who had emigrated to Canada earlier, Grandpa and Grandma also emigrated in 1927. The originally settled in the Beaumont, Rolly View area where they rented

various farm yards with Grandpa working wherever he could find some work.

In 1930 Aunt Selma was born and it was also in the same year that Grandpa and Grandma were able to purchase their first farm in the Rolly View district. What looked like a good start for them turned to disaster when Grandpa had a stroke leaving him paralyzed; the final result being that they had to give up their farm in 1935.

However, Grandpa got better and they moved to the Looma district where they again rented farm yards. In 1938 Uncle Erwin was born. Another move was made to the Fultonvale District where they progressed enough to purchase another farm in the Uncas District in 1942. Again things went well, only to have hardships come again when Grandpa died in 1952 at the age of 54. Grandma was left with Erwin and farmed with him the rest of her life. Grandma died a painless and peaceful death and went to her final rest on Friday April 12, 1985 at 9 A.M.

She leaves to mourn one son, Erwin, three daughters, Selma, Helen and Irma, two son-in-laws, Herman Hahn and Siegmund Schilman, ten grandchildren and eighteen great grandchildren, one sister, Pauline Schellart, nieces and nephews and many friends.

I have been asked to say a few words about Grandma and find it almost impossible, for how do you express what is in your heart? I guess the easiest way would be to say that we all loved her. I don't know of anyone nor have I ever heard anyone say that they disliked her.

Of all the great qualities Grandma had, the one that stands out the strongest was her faith and love of God. She attended church regularly and when that wasn't possible, she would worship at home by listening to her favorite church services on the radio and reading her Bible, but Grandma's faith was not limited to her Sunday worship.

When I was young I used to spend a lot of time at Grandma and Erwin's. I loved the farm and spent many a weekend and summer holidays with them. Something I will never forget is that Grandma's day began with God and ended with God. The day began with prayer and reading of the Scriptures and the day ended with all of us kneeling at our bedside, while Grandma prayed out loud.

Grandma was a true warrior for her Lord. She was never ashamed of her faith and was quite quick to reprimand those who she thought were going against God's will.

There were many of us who would marvel that at her age, she could still do so much on the farm. Where did she get all that strength and energy? She



got her strength from the good Lord. You see Grandma and God were good friends.

I think the best example of Grandma's faith that she left behind is that every single member of her family including children, grandchildren and great grandchildren are Christians, albeit they express their faith in different religions. What greater gift could we have received? If there ever was an example of a Mother, a Grandmother, a Friend, we know it was her.

I would like to end by reciting one of the prayers that meant a lot to Grandma and one she said every day.

Christi Blut und Gerechtigkeit  
Das ist mein Schmuck und Ehrenkleid  
Damit will Ich vor Gott bestehn  
Wenn Ich in den Himmel werd eingehn.

Ed. note. Grandma Bernt died 9 A.M. April 12, 1985 at 87 years, 4 months and 25 days. May she rest in peace.

## **BIRKHOLZ, ARTHUR and LUCY**

*by Arthur Birkholz*

My father Julius Birkholz was born and grew up in Kreis Nieschawa, Poland and married Lydia Mundt, daughter of Wilhelm Mundt and Pauline (Pubantz) in the year of 1927. They emigrated to Canada in 1928. In 1931 they bought a farm east of Edmonton, in the Ardrossan district.

In the year of 1933, October 11, I, Arthur Birkholz was born. I was baptized at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Neuman in Edmonton, by Pastor K. Freitag and was confirmed on March 30, 1947 by Pastor Paul Hanneman. I was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church until 1963.

I received my education at Garden school. This was a one room school. It had up to 48 students from grades one to ten with one teacher. Later on I went to Calgary and attended Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (S.A.I.T.) for a carpenter course which took four years to complete.

In the summer of 1950 I worked in Edmonton for Poole Construction, at the Canadian Industries Ltd. (C.I.L.) Plant, which was under construction. I was supplying the Bricklayers with mortar and brick. In the fall I went home to help with the harvest. I then went to work for Ziedler Mill in the winter. My wages were 85 ¢ an hour. In the spring of 1956 I went to work for Bird Construction. I was a labourer for one year, then for three years I was a carpenter apprentice, and then for four years I was a carpenter. After that I was promoted as a carpenter foreman. I then spent fifteen years as project manager. We worked on various projects, such as: Interprovincial

Pipe Lines, schools, hospitals, Provincial buildings, Court Houses, and warehouses. We worked in Alberta, B.C., Saskatchewan and the North West Territories.



*1984 - Art and Lucy Birkholz family.*

*Standing - Gary, Rudy Front: Bernice, Randy and Doris*

One unique project that I worked on was the building of 27 homes for the native people. It was a Canada-Alberta Industrial Training Program, training native people to build log houses. It was a stacked log construction. The logs were salvaged from road clearings and building sites. Anything from three inch to ten inch diameter logs were peeled and cut into eighteen inch lengths. They were dipped in preservatives and stacked like cord wood. Mortar was placed on the outside and inside of the logs and filled with zonolite insulation in the middle. The walls ended up fireproof, insulated and almost indestructible. It was hoped that people working on this project would go and assist other communities in isolated areas to build similar homes. Some of the homes were eight sided and some were round. It was quite an experience to train native people on this project.

In 1963 I married Lucy (Radke) Lange; consequently, I became an immediate father of two children; Rudy Leonard and Doris Darlene Lange. In 1964 a daughter was born; Bernice Eileen. Then in 1966 Gary Arthur arrived and made another dream come true. Four years later (1970) another son showed up; Randy Edwin. We are very thankful for our family of five healthy, energetic children and enjoy them to the fullest.

We lived in Edmonton from 1963 to 1972, at which time we bought a farm two miles west of Leduc.



1984 - Arthur and Lucy Birkholz

Presently we raise Simmental cattle. The boys have won numerous ribbons and trophies in 4-H, showing the cattle. We also raise pigs, chickens and pheasants. We enjoy living in the county of Leduc and have seen community progress continuously through the years. God's blessing has been with us during the past years and has supplied our every need.

## BIRKHOLZ, GUSTAV and FRIEDA

*by Gus & Frieda Birkholz*

My father, Emil, was born on January 31, 1875 in the village of Teodorowo, Nieschawa, Poland. He was baptized and confirmed in the Augsburg Lutheran Church in Sompolno. When he was 21 years old, he was drafted by the Tsar to the Russian Army for five years to the cavalry. After the five



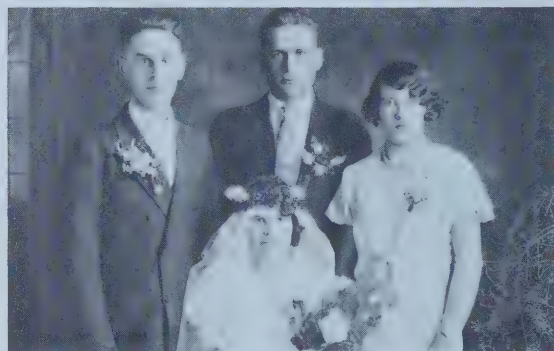
*Gus Birkholz*

*Inscription on placard "Remembrance Military Service Torun, 1927" (Poland)*

years, he was discharged. In 1901 he got married to Karoline Resner by Pastor Radasewski at the church in Sompolno. After that he farmed in Krogules, Nieschawa.

Nine children were born, of which two boys and two girls died young and five are still alive. Julius, Gustav, Reinhart, one sister, Emilye, and Eduart. Mother died when she was forty, in 1923.

I, Gustav was born on October 15, 1904 and went to a country school. Before the first World War, Russian was taught. Germany overtook Poland during the war then German was taught in all the schools. After a short time, the Germans had to leave and the children had to learn Polish. When I was 21, in 1926, I was drafted to the Polish army and had to serve 18 months as rider for the artillery in Hohensalsa, now Tvwroslow. After the 18 months service, I was discharged, in 1927. In 1928 I worked on my emigration papers to Canada. I said good-bye



1932 - Gus and Frieda Birkholz Wedding. Gus, Dan Werner, Elsie Felske Frieda

to Poland because of unemployment and also because of the danger of war.

Beginning of April, 1929, I boarded a ship of the Cunard Line in Dansig going to Quebec. It took four weeks on the ocean. From Quebec to Edmonton via Winnipeg, I went by train. In Edmonton I stayed the night in the immigration hall. Next day I went on to New Sarepta, where I found room at my cousin, August Schmidt, on his farm. This was in May 1929. In fall, 1930, I went to Compeer, to work in the fields, harvesting. Even though they were poor times, I made good money. In November 1930 I came back to Edmonton and stayed at my brother Julius' place. He had already come to Canada in 1928. In 1931 he bought a farm in Ardrossan and I went with him.

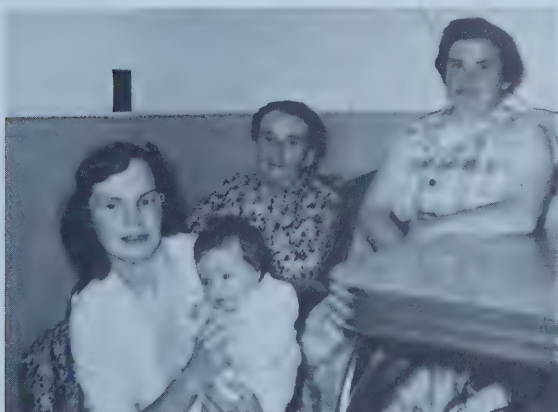
Pastor K. Freitag started church services in people's homes in 1928 and later organized a congregation, where I became a member right away.



In 1931 I got to know Frieda Felske and we were married on December 26, 1932 by Pastor Freitag in the church in South Edmonton. We have three children: Irmgard-Ruth married Heins Kuerbis, have five children and are living in Warburg; Erwin-Walter married Betty-Ann Cunningham have four children and live in Sherwood Park and Margarete-Laura married Henry Giesbrecht; they have three children and live in Millwoods.



*Birkholz family:  
Irmgard - Ruth, Erwin, Margarete-Laura Gus and Frieda*



*Four Generations - 1960  
L to R: Laura Giesbrech with Brenda Mrs. Felske, Frieda Birkholz*

To give is more blessed than to take.  
If we would only want to be givers  
God would give us enough seeds to sow  
and enough bread to eat.  
We would have enough of everything  
and be rich for all kinds of good deeds.

## **BIRKHOLZ, JULIUS and LYDIA**

*by Julius Birkholz*

My great great grandfather, whose first name I can't recall, came from Germany and emigrated to Poland in 1799. He settled on a farm in Zychlinki Kreis Nieschawa.



*Birkholz first home built in 1936*

My great grandfather, August Birkholz, was born in 1826 in Zychlinki. He was baptized and confirmed in Augsburg, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sompolno, Poland. He married Lutwika Zimmer in 1845. He, also, was a farmer in Zychlinki.

My grandfather, Ludwig Birkholz, was born on February 6, 1846 in Zychlinki. He, also, was baptized and confirmed in the Augsburg Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sompolno, Poland. By this marriage they had two children. Ludwig's second marriage was to a Schmidt daughter; they had no children. His third marriage was to Karoline Schmidt and they had four children; Julius, Juliana, Emilge, and Emil. His fourth marriage, was to a Drews' daughter, by which they had eight children; a Mrs. Niekoly, Mrs. Besler, Adolf, Helene, Alexander, Henregete, Robert, and Olga.

My father, Emil Birkholz, was born on January 31, 1875 in Teodorwo Kreis Nieschawa, Poland. He also was baptized and confirmed in the Augsburg Evangelical Lutheran Church, in Sompolno. In 1901 he was married to Karoline Resner by Pastor R. Thad. Radasewski. They were farmers in Krogulez, Kreis Nieschawa. They had nine children, four died

and five lived: Julius, Gustaf, Reinhard, Emilge and Edward.

I, Julius Birkholz, the oldest, was born on December 5, 1902 in Bialobloto, Kreis Nieschawa, Poland. I also was baptized and confirmed in the Augsburg Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sompolno by Pastor Bierschenk. I was educated for six years by the Russian Government in the Russian language, four years by the German Government, and my last two years by the Polish Government in the Polish language.

At the age of 21, I was drafted into the Polish Army for two years. Within these two years my rank rose to Corporal. After I was released from the army, I married Lydia Mundt, daughter of Wilhelm and Pauline, on March 1, 1927 in Augsburg Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sompolno, Poland, by Pastor Philip Kreutz. I emigrated to Canada on the Steamship S.S. Australia, which arrived in Quebec on May 18, 1928. I had left my wife and two week old baby daughter, Irene, behind in Poland. By train I left Quebec and arrived in New Sarepta at the home of August Schmidt on May 24, 1928. I had left the old country because I felt there was no future there for the younger people and I was fearful another war would break out.

In order to pay August Schmidt for room and board, I did some brushing from May to July. In July I moved south to Altario and Compeer District where I earned my first dollar. The wages at that time was four dollars a day for stooking and five for threshing.

At the end of October I moved to Edmonton with \$285, which was all of my savings. I used those savings to purchase the fare for my wife, Lydia and our daughter, Irene. This was to take seven months. In the meantime, with winter coming on, there was no alternative, but to go back to August Schmidt to work for room and board.

In March of 1929, I was scouting for a place which was suitable for my family. I heard that there were some buildings to rent on a farm in the Colchester-Bretona district, owned by Elsie Lentz. Mrs. Lentz rented us pasture land and buildings for \$80.00 a year, on which I could then keep some animals and grow a garden.

In May of 1929 my wife and daughter arrived from Poland. They were welcomed by neighbors and people from the Moravian Congregation. We were overwhelmed by their thoughtfulness and concern. Some brought weaner pigs, calves and groceries. I was employed by the neighbors in the area, at \$1.50-\$2.00 a day, to help supplement my income. There was always some hope that someday we could own a

farm of our own.

In 1930 I went to the Peace River and Heinz Creek district to look for a homestead. However, it was impossible to find water. Thousand foot deep wells were drilled, but most were dry. I then planned to go back to Edmonton and look around there for farms. I was told that a bush farm could be bought in the Ardrossan district for \$10.00 an acre. I purchased some land 1 1/4 miles north, of the Wye Rd., on Range Rd. 221 in 1930 and built a two room loghouse, but we didn't have enough money to buy shingles for the roof. In those depression years, it was very difficult to own a dollar; things were getting hard. I remember when a cow was worth \$7.00, a hog \$3.00, a pound of butter 10 cents and a dozen of eggs five cents.

In 1931 we moved into the loghouse with no roof but later on that fall we managed by way of a gift to get a roof over our heads. We were now very happy to be able to sleep in a dry bed, because it had rained almost every second day in the summer. It was so bad during that summer that we were scared whenever a dark cloud came over. However, we did not have to go hungry at any time, bush rabbits were plentiful.

In the meantime more and more German immigrants came to this district from Poland and Russia. Pastors from Trinity, South Edmonton came here and held services in homes and the Garden School. In 1932 there were 16 families in this area, so we agreed to build our own church, which was organized on April 19, 1932. I helped organize and build our own first church. Later I was voted in as a councilor, then as chairman for many years and also held the position as a treasurer.

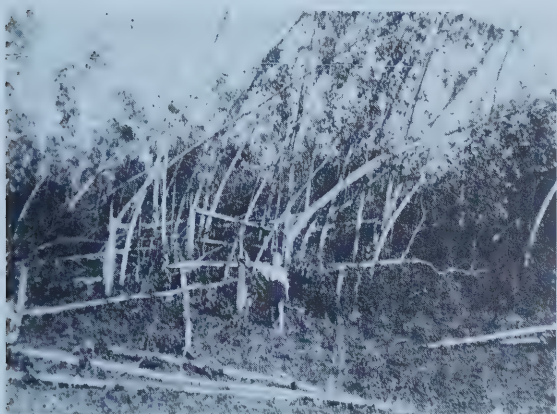
However, to pay for the farm, I had to do a lot of off the farm work. The only work available was during harvest time at four week stretches. I worked with a team of horses for a threshing crew in the Ardrossan area. We carried on this way until 1936 and things got much better, but October 29, 1936 disaster struck. We lost our 18 month old son, Erwin, in a house fire. We also lost all of our crop that same year. However, we were not discouraged nor did we give up; we carried on. We cleared more land and acquired more farm animals. In July 1944 disaster struck again, when a tornado took off the roof of our house and destroyed two granaries. We had to overcome many hard times in our younger years. These were filled with many depressing days and not much sunshine.

We can not forget our good days. During the Second World War years, everything seemed to go right. We seemed to have enough money, we were able to build some of our larger buildings, we bought





July 1944 - Lydia Birkholz  
The tornado destroyed two graineries and upset one.



1944 - Tornado

our first car, tractor and threshing machine. Since we have completed all those long days and overcome many hardships we are now in retirement. Our health is as good as can be expected and are enjoying this last stage of our life. Retirement has been a real pleasure; it gives us time to plant and cultivate the garden and a flower patch. I build the occasional ornament to add to our yard.

We were blessed with seven children and they are as follows: Irene, born in Poland, married Clem Nickel. They live on a farm in Ellerslie and have three children. Arthur married Lucy Radke and lives on a farm near Leduc. They have five children. Margaret married Ernest Heppner and lives on a farm in Ellerslie. They have four children. Mary married Lawrence Heppner and lives on a farm in Ellerslie. They have two children. Norman married Jane Forsyth and lives on the home farm. They have three children. Lillian married William Laiss and lives on an acreage in Ardrossan. They have two children.

Eileen married Oskar Pretzlaff and lives on a farm near Namao. They have two children.



1981 - Birkholz family - Back: Eileen, Margaret, Mary, Irene, Lillian Seated: Norman, Lydia and Julius, Arthur

### **BIRKHOLZ, Norman and Jane.**

Norman Birkholz, son of Julius and Lydia Birkholz, was born and grew up on his Dad's farm, which is located two miles south of Ardrossan, Alberta. Started school in Glen Garden having to walk one mile and half every school day in rain, snow or sunshine, and finished his schooling at the Ardrossan school. He was working for a gravel crushing company, and worked the family farm which he occupied the following eleven years. In 1969 he married Jane Forsyth and is presently raising three daughters Laura, Theresa, and Denise. In 1970 Julius Birkholz retired from farming and turned the reigns over to Norman Birkholz. There the family remains.



1985 - Laura, Theresa, Denise, Jane and Norman Birkholz

## **BIRRELL, WILLIAM and MARTHA**

*by Marty Birrell*

William and Helen Birrell parents of William (Bill) came from Scotland and were married in 1926 in Edmonton. The coal mines in the Robb-Mercoal area were what attracted William to this part of the world. They had two daughters and one son Bill, born in 1931. They had a happy life in the valley in the foothills. Bill found an orphan baby deer when he was fishing one day as a boy. The deer, Bambi, was one of the family pets for several years until he was placed in the Calgary Zoo. Bill became an ardent fisherman, hunter -- and also a coal miner. He and his parents moved to Edmonton in 1959 when the mines closed down and many thriving towns became ghost towns. Bill got a job at Coca-Cola where he still is today.



*1946 - Bill with his mother and pet Bambi.*



*1973 - Billy Birrell baptised by Grandfather Ewald Kublik at St. John's.*

He met Martha (Marty) Kublik in 1967. She was born in 1940 and with her parents, Ewald and Elsie Kublik and 3 sisters, lived in Saskatchewan until 5

years of age and then they all moved to Alberta. Life as children of a Pastor can be rewarding, as we were taken along on visits and the best food was always served. There are other rewards, too. I am thankful for the faithful prayers of my parents.

Bill and Marty married in 1970; the marriage performed by Pastor Ewald Kublik. They moved to Ardrossan in 1972 and in 1973 Billy was born. He made the fifth generation of William Birrell's. Billy was baptized by his Grandpa Kublik in 1973; as well, his Dad and Uncle Percy Roth were confirmed by him at the same service in St. John's, Ardrossan. They became members of St. John's in 1978.



*Nov. 7, 1970 - Marty and Bill Birrell married by father Ewald Kubli*



*1978 - Bill, Marty and Billy Birrell*



We were very warmly received by the members of St. John's and appreciated their friendliness.

## **BUSENIUS, CLARENCE and MARY**

*by Mary Busenius*

Clarence was born on March 2, 1930 in the Ardrossan district to Wilhelm Busenius and Louise (Lueders). He has two younger sisters, Elsie and Eleanor.

When Clarence was born there wasn't a Lutheran church in the area and services at that time were being held in the Renas home. This is where Clarence was christened by Reverend K. Freitag.

To attend Saturday School at St. John's, Clarence walked across the field about three quarters of a mile. They were taught to read, and write and memorized the Catechism, all in German. When the girls did not have their homework done Pastor Weise would make them wash his dishes. The boys had to hoe around the spruce trees, planted in front of the parsonage. Pastor Weise left shortly before Clarence's class was to be confirmed, so Rev. H.

to get their children, they would bring news that a loved one had been wounded or killed in action. The kids were at school when they were told that the war had ended. Everyone, right down to the grade ones, felt so relieved and thankful that peace was declared.

In 1942, when Adalbert Missal started a band, Clarence and about seven other boys in the area joined in. Clarence appreciates the patience and time he took to teach him to play the baritone. None of the boys knew a note before, nor played an instrument. Clarence really looked forward to band practice, besides playing, they always had a lot of fun, maybe even got a little wild sometimes. Practices were usually held in the Missal home. The day Clarence Jait had his birthday, they were giving him the bumps and broke the ceiling causing the insulating shavings to come down into Missal's kitchen. Eleanore Missal graciously put up with them for so many years.

Later, when they could play better, the band performed in church almost every Sunday. They also played at parades, one time in the Klondike Parade and other outings.

When Clarence was still in his early teens, he was eager to earn some money. He picked potatoes for a farmer, making about twenty-five cents an hour. This farm was where Sherwood Park Centre is situated now. He trapped weasels in the winter, selling the skins for up to a dollar each. Once he caught a mink and sold it live for twenty dollars to a mink farmer, who wanted it for breeding purposes. That was a lot of money then. He later worked with a threshing crew which was hard work and long hours.

He moved to Edmonton when he started to work for GW Golden Construction when he was about twenty-one years of age. He was there for a month, when a better opportunity presented itself at Building Products (BP). In the four years that he was at B.P. he was able to save enough to buy himself a 1951 Ford and later a new 1955 Chevrolet car. In 1956, he switched jobs again when he went to work for Polychemical Industries.

One of the highlights of Clarence's single days was in 1953 when he and four companions drove in his 1951 Ford to Los Angeles. This is where he saw for the first time, a television program, palm trees and three-lane highway.

I was born on October 2, 1934 in Onoway to Erdman and Anna (Miller) Laiss. I was the youngest of eight children, five boys and three girls. A brother Erwin born in Poland, died there at two years of age.

After living in Onoway for one year we moved to a rented farm four miles north-west of Onoway but only one mile from the one-room Sturgeon River



*1957 - Clarence & Mary Busenius Wedding*

Luetkehoelter performed the confirmation of this group in 1944.

Clarence attended the one-room Garden School for six years and continued his education at the Douglas School. Usually Clarence and Elsie would ride their horse to school but in the winter they drove with the horse and sleigh. They would pick up other kids on the way and have a full load by the time they arrived at the school. After Clarence finished school, he stayed home to help on the farm.

During the Depression and even to this day Clarence feels that it (the Depression) didn't affect him, he can remember he had good times with the neighborhood kids. There was always enough to eat.

When World War II started, Clarence experienced a frightening feeling. He recalls young men going to the army. Sometimes, when mothers came to school

School. We all attended this school.



1970 - Clarence, Mary Front - Donna, Joan, Ken, Roy Busenius

About seven years later we moved again, to a bush farm my parents bought which was located just two miles south of the rented farm. About this time, my oldest brother Albert had enlisted in the army and went overseas. My two sisters, Erna and Nathalie were working in Edmonton.

My three brothers, Otto, Berthold, Willy and myself now had two miles to walk to school. I went to the Sturgeon River School for seven years with Mrs. L.E. Olivier as our teacher, whom most everyone admired and respected. She retired in June 1948. With no teacher for the next term we took our lessons by correspondence. Can you imagine a room full of kids with very little supervision? The school burnt down that December and all of us kids in our neighborhood were transported to the Grasmere School in Alberta Beach. The next year we were all bussed to the Onoway Beaupre High School, where I completed my grade twelve, graduating in 1953.

My three brothers and I would spend a lot of time by the Sturgeon River which flowed through our farm. We would catch fish with a snare tied on the end of a pole, and sometimes when the river was low we would corner the fish, catching them with our hands.

I was quite young when I learned to sew on a treadle sewing machine. I would take my sisters old dresses apart and cut them down to fit me. I also liked listening to our battery operated radio to western music or "The Shadow", when my dad was not around. The life of the batteries didn't last long so the radio was only to be used for listening to the news and "Premier Manning".

I still shudder when I think about the many times the caterpillars were so bad that the trees, buildings, fences and pathways were covered with them. You could not walk anywhere without one falling on your back. Thank Heaven! This lasted for only about two to three weeks, but the aftermath was sickening. Every tree including the willows, raspberry plants and gardens were completely stripped.

I was baptized in the Holy Trinity Church in Onoway where we were members. Dad would take us to church with horse and wagon or sleigh in the winter, to attend church or Saturday School. We were taught to read, write, and memorized from the Catechism and Bible, in German. In 1951, Willy and I were confirmed by Rev. E.G. Goos, brother of Otto Goos.

After graduation, I went to Edmonton to look for work. After working two months at the Ole English Fish and Chips, I switched jobs and worked for the Motor Vehicle Branch for four years. While there, I had the opportunity to obtain my drivers licence, costing a dollar at that time, yet I did not know how to drive a car.

In August of 1954, I met Clarence Busenius through a girlfriend, and it was he who taught me to drive, in his 1955 Chevrolet. We were married May 13, 1957 by Rev. P. Hanneman at St. John's Ardrossan. We made our home in the Argyl district in Edmonton, and joined the Trinity Lutheran Church.

While living in the city we were blessed with two children; a son Ken, born on July 29, 1958 and a daughter, Joan, born on January 13, 1960. Ken was christened by Rev. E. Sedo and Joan, by Rev. Penner.

Since Clarence and I both grew up on a farm we decided to move back to the country again. In March of 1960, we sold our home and moved to the Ar-



1982 - Roy, Clarence, Ken, Donna, Mary, Joan Busenius



drossan district. We rented the St. John's Ardrossan Church patronage, while our house was being built on our 40 acre parcel of land located on the southwest corner of Clarence's parents farm. We had our church membership transferred to St. John's.

The only time we ever had anything stolen was while we were living in the parsonage. We went away one afternoon, came home late at night and found our outside dog in the kitchen with an empty pie plate on the floor. We thought someone was playing a trick on us until we started looking around and found things missing. Clarence's two suits, one his wedding suit, radio, sewing machine and Skilsaw were gone. Clarence needed the Skilsaw for building our house. Some time later, the police caught the culprits in a stolen car with our things in it. We had to wait three months before we got our articles back.

In October of 1960 we moved into our new home which was not finished. We did not have a well until a year later. In 1962, Clarence built a barn and shed. Clarence's parents gave us our first cow. From this cow we sold cream, had enough milk for the house and raised three calves a year. Besides raising the calves from our cows we would buy calves from dairymen. We do not milk cows anymore but still have beef cattle. Clarence used to rent land from a neighbor, but later when his dad retired, he and his brother-in-law, John took over the operation and are still farming it today.

Besides farming, Clarence continued to work for Polychemical Industries which was shift work. This plant was a plastic firm that made wide sheeting and pipe. He worked for Polychemical for eleven years when their pipe division was sold to Beta Plastics so Clarence went to work for them. The company later was sold to Dupont, Wiik and Hoeglund, where he is still employed. Clarence was on shift work until 1981, when he was put on day work but is still occasionally on call. He served on the church council from 1966-72 and is presently on council again.

We were again blessed with two more children, a daughter, Donna, born on May 4, 1962 and a son, Roy, born on March 29, 1966. I was kept busy raising the family, doing farm chores, and at the same time was able to put in a big garden and still do, which provided abundantly, canning and freezing enough to last through the winter. I enjoyed sewing for the family, especially for the girls and myself. I joined Ladies Aid in 1961 and was secretary from 1964-1981. In 1980, I joined the newly formed Faithful Helpers Circle and am presently secretary of this group. It was a privilege for me to teach for Vacation Bible School and to work with the Sunday School, being a teacher from 1964-1980 and the Sunday

School Treasurer from 1969-1982.

Clarence and I have now been married for 28 years and we thank the Lord for much happiness, good health, our four children and a son-in-law.

Ken was confirmed by Rev. P. Hanneman in 1972. After confirmation, he taught Sunday School and was a member of the Youth Group. Since 1980, Ken and his brother-in-law Gary Adam are directors of the St. John's Youth Band. Ken has always loved music. His first instrument was the guitar. When he went to Ardrossan Junior High School, he played the clarinet, alto, tenor and baritone saxophone. When he played the baritone sax, you could barely see him because the instrument was so large. In 1974, the school band played at the World's Fair in Spokane. Over the years, Ken has played in many bands.

After graduation in 1976, he went to Northern Alberta Institute of Technology. He then worked for Twin Bridges Sand and Gravel, Loveseth and Southside Tire Town. While working at Tire Town, he became good friends with a young man who had an uncle and aunt living in Australia. The cold winters inspired the two men to visit these relatives in the warm country. They applied for a working visa, quit their jobs and ventured off to California Hawaii, Fiji, and finally Australia. They stayed with the relatives for a few months until they found their own apartment. When their money got low, they found jobs. After a year of living in Australia, Ken returned home with about five dollars in his wallet. He is presently living at home and is service manager at Sherwood Park Tire Town.

Joan is married to Gary Adam and is living in Edmonton (see Gary and Joan Adam). Donna lives in Edmonton.

Roy was christened by Rev. P. Hanneman and confirmed by Rev. R. Pudrycki in 1980. He is presently a member of the Youth Group and plays the alto saxophone in the Youth Band. Roy attended the Wye School for his first four years of school. When the County of Strathcona changed school boundaries, Roy was bussed to Fultonvale for two years. He had to change again to the Ardrossan Jr/Sr High School. He chose to finish his grade eleven and twelve at the Salisbury High School in Sherwood Park because he wanted to enroll in the Electronics Course. He graduated in June 1984. He is living at home and is continuing his studies at NAIT, taking Electronics Engineering Technology. Roy has fond memories of his trip to California and Tijuana, Mexico.

## **BUSENIUS, DONNA**

I live in an apartment in downtown Edmonton, but

I still like to consider myself as a “farmgirl”. When visiting home, I see subdivisions being built all around us - houses on the land where we kids used to go boating in the spring in our homemade rafts or rubber dinghies, or racing and jumping our motorbikes. Hardly a day would go by where we would not return back home with our boots full of water.

My first memory of Church was when I was quite young, with only German service held at this time. Mom and dad would take us to church and we would try to sit quietly, yet not understanding a word of German. I’ll always remember my father pointing his finger at us to keep quiet. We knew very well what that finger meant. We went to St. John’s Lutheran almost every Sunday. Mom would always dress my sister Joan and me, alike - wearing hat, white gloves and a dress that she had made for us.

I was confirmed by Pastor Querengesser when I was 15. Later, I taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, went to Youth Group and played my flute in the Junior Band. After my graduation from Ardrossan Jr/Sr High School in June, 1980, I moved into the city to live with my sister, to look for work. After working for a year, I travelled to Australia for three months to visit my brother, Ken, who had ventured there a few months earlier. Australia was great - Sydney, Coober Pedy, Ayers Rock, Darwin and the Gold Coast all hold great memories for me. I had the time of my life. So much, in fact, that I had to borrow money to pay for my departure tax, in order to get home. Upon arriving home, living again with Joan, I found a job with the Government of Alberta, Department of Economic Development, where I am still employed. After living for a total of two years with Joan, until her marriage in June 1983, I moved into an apartment of my own in the same building. Now, instead of being roommates, we are neighbours.



*Donna and her fiancé Parry Glenn.*

Joan and I got along quite well. But we had our problems. For instance, I had a bad habit of forgetting my keys and would have to phone Joan and have her come down into the lobby (in her pyjamas) to let me in, sometimes very late. She was not very pleased. But nonetheless, whether it was us fighting for the bathroom and mirror in the mornings or whose turn it was to do the dishes or vacuuming, or take out the garbage, we had fun.

I am still a member of St. John’s Lutheran Church and I am proud and glad of my Christian upbringing.

## **BUSENIUS, ERWIN and WINNIE**

*by Winnie Busenius*

Erwin emigrated to Canada from Germany together with his parents, two brothers, and two sisters in November 1951. He attended the Garden School and worked for different farmers until 1954. He then started to work in Edmonton at various jobs and trained to become a carpenter which is still his trade. Although he worked in Edmonton, he still continued to live at home in the Ardrossan area and attended this church. Erwin was confirmed by Pastor Hanneman in 1952 and has remained a member of this church.

In 1962 he met Winnifred Jean Friesen of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. I was born, raised, and educated in Saskatoon. As a young girl, I attended the Mennonite and United Churches. I worked for two years as a bookkeeper before moving to Edmonton.

In April of 1964, Erwin and I were married in the new St. John’s Church building by Pastor Paul Hanneman. We were the first couple to be married in this church, although it was not dedicated as a church until later in 1964. We lived in the city for a few months before moving out to the country. We built our home on the old Douglas school yard and are still there.

We have four children, all boys. The oldest three, Curtis, Richard, and Dennis were baptized by Pastor Hanneman and the youngest, Steven, by Pastor A. Querengesser. Curtis was confirmed by Pastor Querengesser and Rick and Dennis by Pastor Pudrycki. Steven is now seven years old and in grade two at school.

## **BUSENIUS, HENRY and SELMA**

*by Lydia Busenius*

In 1951, Henry and Selma Busenius emigrated from Germany with their five children, three boys and two girls. The oldest was sixteen and the youngest was five when they left. A few months after their arrival they joined the St. John’s Ardrossan



congregation.

They had resided originally in Zhitomer, Wolhynia, which is a part of Western Russia. With the invasion of that area by the German troops and the counter-offensive by the Soviets, they left in 1943 to go further west. They arrived eventually in Goldberg, Lower Saxony, at a place near Breslau. Here they spent six months in a "Lager," a refugee camp. Henry worked for various farmers in the immediate area and at a place a little more distant called Sudetengabe. On returning in 1946, Lower Saxony had been given over to Poland and the farmers had lost everything, so the family journeyed in 1947 to Saxony proper, to Selma's father's place.

From here Henry made his way to West Germany to the British sector and a place near Hannover. On the train he happened to meet a Frau Schobert who had word about his brother, Reinhold, now living in the American sector. After some difficulty in getting passes, Henry and his family managed to join Reinhold. In 1948 they arrived at Hessen, near Fulda, at a place called Hünfeld. From there, then, they emigrated to Canada.

They settled in the Garden School district on property that is now the Ireland Subdivision and stayed there until the spring of 1954. At this time they purchased a quarter of land in the Douglas School area, the quarter that had the school on it. Most of the land was bush, in fact, less than thirty acres were open. The land was cleared gradually while Henry worked for Golden Construction as a laborer in order to make ends meet. Gradually farm income increased as cows were milked and cream was shipped, hogs were fed and sold, and so the family was fed and clothed. By 1970, all the children were grown up and Henry and Selma went into semi-retirement.



1983 - Busenius family: Back; Leonard, Erwin, Wally Front; Margaret, Selma, Heinrich, Alma

The four younger children were confirmed by Pastor Hanneman: Erwin in 1952, Leonard in 1954, Alma in 1957 and Margaret in 1960. The oldest, Waldemar (Wally) had been confirmed in Germany. (The stories of Wally and Erwin are written up separately.) Leonard married Angela Gerke in 1970, and lives in Edmonton. Alma married Jacob Tomm in 1962; they are members of St. Paul's Lutheran in Edmonton. Margaret married Gary Berdahl; they reside in Sherwood Park and are members of Mount Olivet Lutheran Church.

Henry still lives on the original property. Selma has moved to the Grandview Extended Care Centre in Edmonton.

## **BUSENIUS, MICHAEL and LAKADIA**

*by Ed and Esther Busenius*

Michael (Mike) Busenius, born September 22, 1892 in Wolhynia, Russia is the third eldest child of Juliana and Nicklaus Busenius.

In 1914 Mike emigrated to Canada, arriving in Edmonton on March 7th. Mike had two brothers already living in Alberta. For many years he worked in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

On January 2, 1922 Mike married Lakadia Werner at the Lutheran Church in Ellerslie, Alberta. Lakadia was born June 29, 1904 in Ellerslie, Alberta. She is the daughter of Carl and Amanda Werner. Mike and Lakadia continued to live in Ellerslie.

In November of 1922, Walter, their first son was born. In May of 1924, their daughter Helen was born.

The following April of 1925, Mike, Lakadia and their two children moved to Ardrossan, Alberta. They purchased their farm from the Soldier Settlement Board. The property was previously homesteaded by the McFadzan Brothers. The existing house had lost its doors and windows. Most of the land was treed and there were many years of hard work clearing the land by hand. The trees were chopped down by axe and the stumps were removed. Breaking the land was done by the horse-drawn breaking plow. Then the roots had to be picked. Hours were long and times were hard. Everyone made do with what they had. Trees were used to build log buildings and for firewood for the stoves. In the fall, wood would be cut, split, and piled for next year. Wood was burned year round. Years later, coal was bought which was only used for the night time heating. If you had a cow or cows, the milk was used to make cottage cheese or was separated and the cream was made into butter. Coal oil lamps were the only means of lighting. Whenever you grew wheat, some of it was taken to the mill and exchanged for



*1982 - Busenius Family: Walter, Herb, Edward, Front; Katie Haney, Michael.*

flour.

In July of 1926, Herbert, their third child was born.

On January 28, 1927 Mike's parents, Nicklaus and Juliana Busenius came to live with Mike and his family.

In October of 1928, Edward was born.

For many years Mike shipped inspected cream to Edmonton City Dairy. As the years passed, he built a dairy barn and started to ship milk. The milk was put into 5 or 8 gallon cans and cooled in cold water in the evenings. Every morning the cans of milk were delivered to the Bailey's, who live where the Kingdom Hall is now. Then the Bailey truck would take the milk into Edmonton. The next day your empty cans were returned. Years later, the truck came directly to the farm to pick up the milk.

During these years Mike was very sick and he went to see doctors everywhere, even went to Rochester, New York, U.S.A. Lakadia and the children carried on with the farming.

In 1941, Katie Evanoff came to live with the Busenius family. Her brother, Alex, was already living with Emil and Olga Busenius of South Edmonton.

The children attended the old Glen Garden School, then the Douglas School and two years later they were transferred back to the new Glen Garden School which is still standing today. The Garden School has been converted into a home.

Mike and Lakadia attended the St. John's Lutheran Church and were members for many years.

In time, Mike had purchased more land. In the summertime, the hay was cut with a horse-drawn mower, raked, and stacked in the fields. In the winter, the stacked hay was hauled home by sleigh and rack.

In May 1947, Walter married Evelyn Kump of

Looma, Alberta. They lived with Mike and Lakadia for a while before moving to Edmonton.

In December 1948, Helen married Reinhold Komant. They moved to some land next to the homeplace. This land was previously owned by Jim Gratrix.

In the summer of 1949, a new home for Mike and Lakadia was built by Herb Klatt, on the home place.

In November of 1949, Katie Evanoff married Elmer Haney. They lived for many years at Uncas.

In 1950, Herbert and Edward bought their dad's milk quota and machinery. Then Herbert moved to the farm north of the St. John's Lutheran Church. The farm is now owned by Jerry Hipkins. Edward purchased 80 acres of the homeplace.

In April 1951, Herbert married Elsie Haney.

In November 1951, Edward married Esther Kneller.

In February of 1953, Edward purchased another 40 acres from his dad.



*Michael and Lakadia Busenius*

In March 1953, Mike and Lakadia moved to Edmonton. That same year they built a new home in South Edmonton.

For many years Mike worked for the Prairie Maid Cereals. Later on Lakadia went to work at St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital.

In May 1962, Helen and Reinhold sold their farm and moved to Kelowna, British Columbia.

In 1963, Mike and Lakadia sold their home in Edmonton and also moved to Kelowna.

April 16, 1964, Lakadia passed away.

Mike was 92 years old in 1984 and is living in Kelowna, British Columbia.

Walter and Evelyn live in Burnaby, British Columbia. They have two children, Shirly and



Kenneth, who are both married. They also have two grandchildren.

Helen and Reinhold Komant have both passed away; Helen in 1966 and Reinhold in 1975. They have two sons, who are both married. Elmer is a missionary in Lusaka, Zambia and has two children. Mervin lives in Red Deer, Alberta, and has two children.

Herbert and Elsie live in Kelowna, British Columbia and have three children, Darrel, Debra, and Donna, and one grandchild.

Edward and Esther live on the homeplace and have two daughters, Diane and Brenda.

Katie and Elmer Haney live in Armstrong, British Columbia and have three children, Agnes, Karie, and Stanley, and three grandchildren.

## **NICKLAUS and JULIANA BUSENIUS**

*by Dot Ruff as related by Lena Pawloske*

The Nicklaus Busenius family were among the thousands of "Germans from Russia" who emigrated to Canada. Since no accurate records were kept, these dates are based on the recollections of the family. Nicklaus, born in Poland in 1861, and his wife, Juliana Bresemel, born in 1868, also in Poland, were married in 1888.

Their first child, Christina, died at 6 weeks of age. Emil was born in March, 1891; Michael in September, 1892; Ferdinand in January, 1895; Emma in March, 1896; Wilhelm in January, 1898; Adolph in August 1899; Magdalena in November, 1900; Johann in January, 1902; Olga in 1903; Henry in May, 1905; Reinhold in February, 1907; Lydia in June, 1911; and finally twins Alvina and Natalia in June, 1913.

They lived in the German settlement of Ludmilovka, in the Zhitomir district of Wolhynia, (a part of the Ukraine) where the people were allowed to retain their German language and customs in their homes, schools and churches.

Typical of the area, their farmhouse was made of logs with a thatched roof and attached barn. With elementary furnishings, it provided a home for Nicklaus and Juliana and their family of fifteen children, although some of the older ones had already left before the youngest were born.

They rented their strip of about 15 acres of land which produced various grain crops and other products, most of which were needed to provide food for the family. To earn some income, they sold wheat, butter and eggs, and as soon as they were able the children were hired out to work for other farmers in the area.

With much manual labor required to operate the farm and care for the household, there was little time



*1928 - Nicklaus & Juliana Busenius*

for education. Each child attended the Lutheran church-school during the winter months for perhaps three years. Schooling consisted of basic reading and arithmetic as well as Bible and catechism lessons. The teacher also conducted the Sunday worship services, baptisms and funeral rites, but an ordained minister was required for confirmation and marriage ceremonies. Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost were three-day festivals, with special celebrations and customs.

All of the Busenius children were baptised there, and the six oldest sons and Emma and Lena were confirmed before they left Ludmilovka.

In family devotions at home, Nicklaus read from the Bible, and everyone joined in singing hymns. One of their favorites, "Danket den Herrn" (Thank the Lord), was often sung even in the most difficult times -- evidence of their faith as a source of strength.

Nicklaus and Juliana always talked about moving to Canada - the land of opportunity, but Nicklaus hesitated fearing that he might "lose his dark bread (what he had), and never find the white loaves (something better)". Over the years, his brothers; Philip, Ferdinand, and August, and sisters; Christine (Mrs. Jakob Seutter) and Katharina (Mrs. Karl Tober) and his mother Christine Busenius emigrated, and by 1913 only Nicklaus' family remained in Wolynia.

In February of 1913, their oldest sons Emil and Ferdinand made their way to Canada, and in December, Michael followed.

The relatives encouraged and sent help for the rest of the family to come, too, and after selling their possessions, Juliana and Nicklaus and their eleven remaining children arrived at the port of Libau in July 1914. After passing medical examinations, Emma, Wilhelm and Adolph embarked for Canada, but the others were detained for treatment of an eye

disease.

During the delay, the War broke out. The Busenius family fled back to the Zhitomir area, and having no home of their own, worked for farmers in the neighborhood. In July of 1915, all of the German people were sent out of the country, and thus began eight years of incredible hardships. Travelling by wagon trains and later by freight cars, the refugees were sent east and north, they knew not where. A scalding accident caused the death of two-year-old Alvina, and the dreaded influenza claimed her twin Natalia, and later 18-year-old Olga. The others survived illness, cold, hunger; lack of clothing, shelter and sanitation; revolution and currency devaluation. After two years near Syzran, and three years near Omsk, Siberia, they endured a horrifyingly slow journey to Minsk, outside Poland, and finally returned to the Zhitomir district in 1923.

During all these years, whenever the family remained in one place for any length of time, they wrote to their children in Canada, who sent parcels of food and clothing, and occasionally money. At times, it was only these gifts that sustained them.

In May 1926 a letter from the relatives in Canada notified them that they had put together enough money for the fares for Juliana, Nicklaus, Lena and Lydia. It was hoped that Johann, Henry and Reinhold would be able to come later.

However, the three brothers married and had families of their own, and it was not until after World War II that Henry and Reinhold and their families could come to Canada. Having chosen to make his home with his family in Siberia, Johann visited the family in Canada in 1972.

In December 1926, Nicklaus, Juliana and Lena and Lydia had obtained the necessary authorizations and passports and set out. They travelled to Moscow, then on to Libau where they sailed first to London and then across the Atlantic to Halifax. The train which took them across Canada arrived in Strathcona early in the morning of January 28, 1927.

Their Canadian relatives had sent them the addresses of Pastor Wahl and Adolph Minchau to contact on arrival. Two young men met them and offered to take them there. How surprised the newcomers were to discover the two helpful 'strangers' were really Michael and Wilhelm!

Nicklaus and Juliana lived with Mike's family and also stayed for some time with Ferdinand's and Bill's until a small log house was built for them on Mike's yard in the fall of 1928. Lena and Lydia soon found employment, and later married and established homes of their own.

Pastor H. Luetkenhoelter was serving St. John's

Lutheran congregation, Ardrossan at that time, holding services in various homes, and he visited and ministered to Juliana and Nicklaus throughout their lifetimes.

Of those in their family who lived in the area, many also formed a part of the congregation over the years. Along with their parents, they contributed to the building of the first church, and helped in its' establishment in the community. Descendants of Nicklaus and Juliana Busenius have been served, and continue to worship there as faithful and active members.

Juliana's health failed in 1933, and when she could no longer manage in her little house, went to stay with her daughter Emma Komant and family who lived nearby. Her final home was with Lydia and her husband, Adolf Milke, where she died at the age of 65 on March 7, 1935. Pastor Luetkenhoelter conducted the funeral service, and since no Lutheran church or cemetery was yet established, burial followed in the nearby Bruderfeld Moravian Cemetery.

Nicklaus meanwhile lived with Mike's family, then with Lydia's, and later with Bill's until he died of heart failure at the age of 75, on December 16, 1936. He, too, was buried in the Bruderfeld Cemetery.

Even though the times were difficult for the Busenius', as for everyone during the depression, their previous experience of extreme hardship had strengthened them to withstand with courage, perseverance, resourcefulness and humor, whatever life would offer. They were surrounded by family and friends, and were able to continue their German customs and church affiliation without fear, and had the satisfaction of seeing their children in Canada become established and contributing to their community.

The certainty of "dark bread" had indeed been worth risking to obtain the "white loaves" of a better life in a new land.

## **BUSENIUS, REINHOLD and OTTILIE**

Reinhold was born in Wolhynia, Russia on Feb. 18, 1907, son of Nicholas and Juliana. Reinhold was the twelfth of fifteen children. He was the youngest boy in the family. He had to work while very young like most European children. In his teenage years he worked for a rich farmer. There he became an apprentice blacksmith for a Mr. Zeibart. He worked for Zeibart until he met Ottilie Schmitke, who also worked as a maidservant for the same farmer.

Ottilie Schmidtke was born on May 22, 1904 in a town called Rudne in the Ukraine. She came from a very large, close-knit Christian family. Her parents



Martha and Julius were blessed with 14 children. Otilie's parents had a hop plantation and her father was a shoe maker as well. Her mother worked hard at being a home maker.

Reinhold and Otilie were married in winter with the wedding taking place at her parents' home. They were blessed with nine children. The first born; Hertha, April 3, 1928, second, Selma, born May, 1929, son, Arvit, born 1931, daughter, Elsie, December 6, 1934, daughter, Erma, born 1936, son, Edmund, born 1938, daughter, Ida, February 8, 1942, another daughter Erma, born in 1944 and daughter, Gertrude, January 8, 1947.

The family experienced many hardships in life, through shortage of food and illness. Four children died in Russia. During the Second World War, the family became refugees. In 1943 they left the Ukraine and travelled to Poland. Then only through a miracle



1948 - Busenius Family: Back L-R: Ida, Otilie, Hertha, Reinhold Front: Erma, Gertrude on lap, Elsie

they got to East Germany, then finally to West Germany.

With five daughters, Reinhold and Otilie settled in Hüenfelt, West Germany. After a short time, Reinhold began to search for his sisters and brothers. Through an ad he had put in a small newspaper, called the German Record, he set the search for his family in motion. Sometime later he found the

whereabouts of them in Canada. With great joy Reinhold and Otilie received the news that they had a chance to come to Canada.

While waiting for their emigration trip, oldest daughter, Hertha, married and second youngest daughter, Erma, passed away.

Reinhold, Otilie, Elsie, Ida and Gertrude came to Canada in 1949. They settled on a farm of Mike Busenuis, almost across the field from St. John's Church in Ardrossan. In the same year the family joined St. John's Lutheran congregation. Oldest daughter, Hertha, and Emil Doberstien and two children came to Canada in 1951.

Parents were pleased to find a German speaking pastor. Pastor Paul Hanneman confirmed Elsie, May 26, 1949, Ida, May 20, 1956 and Gertrude, May 7, 1961.

In 1949 they bought a quarter section of land on the Wye Road. The quarter section was mostly bush and hills. With horse and chains a building site was cleared, and a three room shack became our first real home in Canada.

Life was not easy for them in this land, but God had His hand upon them. St. John's Lutheran Church became their place of worship and a place to leave their hurts.

They had a mixed farming operation, also Reinhold worked as a carpenter's helper. Then some years later a better house was built and a better and bigger barn. The well was good and money was not a problem so their livelihood looked really good.

But then on March 4, 1976 Otilie passed away. This left Reinhold to struggle on by himself. After a five year bout with cancer, Reinhold passed away on March 11, 1981.

The lives of Reinhold and Otilie were mostly heartaches and hardships, but with God's help they courageously carried on until they were called to their "Eternal Home".

## BUSENIUS, WALLY and LYDIA

*by Lydia Busenius*

Wally arrived in Canada with his parents, Henry and Selma, when they emigrated in 1951.

In 1963 we were married at Grace Lutheran Church, Gnadenthal. My family name is Lodwig. Pastor Duesterhoeft performed the ceremony. We lived for the first ten years of marriage in Edmonton and moved out to the Ardrossan area in October of 1973.

We have four children. All were baptized by Pastor Hanneman. Karen was confirmed in 1978 by Pastor Querengesser, Lawrence in 1979, Wesley in 1980 and Sandra in 1984 by Pastor Pudrycki.



1971 - Karen, Wesley, Lawrence, Lydia and Sandra Busenius



1966 - Lydia, Wally and Sandra Busenius

## BUSENIUS, WILHELM and LOUISE

by Wayne Schiewe

Many friends and neighbors of Nickolaus and Julianna (Bresemel) Busenius had already emigrated from the Zhitomir area in Wolhynia, Ukraine when their sixth child, Wilhelm, was born on January 6, 1898. The Busenius family stayed in Wolhynia for another sixteen years before finally selling their possessions and preparing to start a new life in Canada.

During this time they continued to hope that they could build a prosperous and free life for themselves and their children. By the late nineteenth century the Russian rulers were becoming alarmed at the large

numbers of German settlers in their domain. Gradually, the promises made to the early German settlers to entice them to develop the new lands, were withdrawn. It became extremely difficult, if not impossible, to obtain title to land they had leased and cleared from forest to field.

The family moved a few times but eventually settled on rented land at Ludmilowka, about twelve miles from Zhitomir. Their home was typical of that area. While the house was comfortable and pleasant, it was also crowded.

Wilhelm had seven sisters and seven brothers, although the oldest child died as an infant. Some of the older ones had already left when the youngest was born.

The farm was small, only fifteen acres, but it supplied most of their needs. Rye, wheat, barley, oats, buckwheat and millet were grown. Most of the wheat was sold, except for a little kept to make white bread for special occasions. Most of their bread was made from rye flour. The family's diet also included potatoes, vegetables and apples and plums from their own trees.

In a shed attached to the barn a few hogs were raised for sale and for their own use. In the barn were two horses, five to seven milk cows, calves, and fifteen to twenty chickens. Most of the eggs were sold, but the family enjoyed them on Sundays or special holidays.

Farming was hard work in those years, and there was little money available to buy the things they could not produce themselves. Wilhelm was tending their cows, pigs, and geese by the time he was six. When he was a little older, he was hired out to neighbors for the same purpose, as there were no fences in the district. Once he slept while herding and allowed the animals to stray into a field. Even though he was still a boy, he was rudely awakened with a whipping.

Wilhelm attended the local German school over the winter months for a few years. He learned to read and write and do arithmetic. He also studied the Bible and Catechism. The teacher was also the lay minister of the local church.

Wilhelm's family were Lutherans and enjoyed the fellowship of their local congregation. The lay minister led the worship services on Sunday, taught classes to the older children, baptized babies, and held funeral services. Occasionally, an ordained minister from a larger church visited and confirmed the students, and married young couples. At any other time through the year, couples had to travel to a larger town to be married. The Lutheran church was at least recognized by the Russian government,



and authorized, if not encouraged, to minister to the people.

The great festivals of the church, Easter, Christmas and Pentecost, were highlights of the Busenius' year. The occasions were three day festivals, with two church services on the first day and one on the second and third days. But they were also occasions to visit with friends and relatives and enjoy special foods and treats. At Christmas, the church was decorated with a spruce tree laden with paper ornaments, candy sticks, nuts and special cookies tied in pairs with ribbons. The children ate the treats when they were removed after Epiphany. In the spring, homes were decorated for Pentecost with green branches or small trees, and fragrant Kalmus leaves.

With little prospect for owning his own land in Russia, Nickolaus considered moving to Canada several times. Two of his brothers had already gone by 1895. By the time his oldest sons were approaching 21, when they would be inducted into the Russian army for three years, there were encouraging letters coming from his brothers and friends in Canada. Wilhelm's older brothers, Emil and Ferdinand, first and later Mike slipped across the Russian border into Germany in 1913 and went to Canada. By the end of June 1914, the rest of the family was packed and ready to emigrate.



*1917 - Children at the Garden School*

*Back Row L-R: Fred Patterson, Cowed Bolster, Charlie MacFaden, Russel MacPherson, Alfred Goslin, Isabel Swodell, Hazel Patterson, Alberta Horton, Beula Ross, Edith Patterson Front: Irene Bolster, Dorothy Daly, Myrtle Charter, Viola Charter, Louise Lueders*

They took the train to Libau on the Baltic coast. There a medical examination by emigration officials revealed an eye infection in some members of the family, except Bill and his sister and brother, Emma and Adolph. They went on, expecting the rest of the family to follow after a short period in quarantine in Libau. But while they were there, World War I broke

out. They could hear gunfire and saw ships burning in the harbour. They could not go to Canada, so decided to return to Zhitomir. It was many years before the rest of the family was able to come to Canada, after years of tragedy and hardship.

Wilhelm, Emma and Adolph sailed to Liverpool, England and then took a short train trip to Glasgow, Scotland. There they boarded a ship to Quebec City. They were fortunate that the ship was a passenger liner, for they did not have to suffer the squalor and deprivations of the immigrant ships like so many other immigrants. Wilhelm was seasick only the last two days of the fourteen day voyage.

They immediately took a train out of Quebec City heading for Edmonton, where some of Wilhelm's brothers and uncles lived. They transferred trains in Montreal and Winnipeg. Immigration agents were there to help the immigrants make connections. In Winnipeg, they had a twelve hour layover, and Wilhelm and Adolph left Emma at the station to watch the baggage while they went for a walk. They encountered someone from home who was selling papers. They went to his home to visit and talk, but it was many hours before they remembered Emma, still sitting at the platform. They stayed four days in Winnipeg before finally continuing on to Edmonton.

In Edmonton, they were met by an immigration official, Adolph Adam, who owned a machine shop. He took them to their uncle Ferdinand Busenius' house. Soon after, the brothers and sister split up to begin their life in Canada.

Wilhelm, or Bill as he came to be known, went to Bruderheim to work on the farms of his cousins Dave and Reinhold (Shorty) Busenius. He stayed about 2 1/2 years, earning about \$150 per year. While there, he lost the tips of his thumb and first two fingers of his right hand, when he stood too close to a campfire with a dynamite cap. He was quickly taken to a hospital in Lamont to have the jagged finger ends smoothed and the wounds stitched. It took all winter for the fingers to heal.

From 1917 to 1925 Bill moved between Saskatchewan and Edmonton several times. He generally worked on farms in Saskatchewan in the summer, returning to work around Edmonton, Ellerslie or Hay Lakes in the fall and winter. He came to the Ardrossan district in 1925 to join his brother Mike.

By 1925, Bill had saved enough money for a downpayment on a farm of his own. He bought a quarter section from Mr. Backstrom, the son-in-law of the original homesteader, Jim McFadzen. Even though there was a log cabin on the farm, Bill lived with his brother Mike on the adjoining quarter, because he did not want to live in the bush alone.

Only about five acres of the quarter were cleared, and some of this was beginning to grow over again. Bill immediately began clearing more land, a task that continued for many years.



*1929 - Wilhelm and Louise Busenius*

In 1929, Bill took another big step, marrying his girlfriend, Louise Lueders on November 7. Over the winter, they lived with her parents, Theodore and Anna Lueders (Jantz) a mile away from Bill's farm. Bill worked during the winter to make the log cabin on the farm habitable again, as it had been abandoned and the cattle were using it for a shelter. First, he moved it closer to the road allowance. Louise then cleaned and whitewashed the walls and chinked the cracks. They built a lean-to kitchen and installed a safe brick chimney for the wood heater in the living room. This heater also heated the upstairs.

Louise was born on May 9, 1908 in Cloverbar. (now known as the Ardrossan district). She was the second of nine children of Theodore and Anna Lueders. The first child died. She attended school at Glen Garden (later known as the Garden School) during the summer months. This school was not open during the winter, partly due to lack of funds. When she started school, Louise could not speak any English, only German. Being the oldest, Louise had to help her father with much of the farm work, and so had to quit school in grade eight. As well as

chores, she did field work, piled brush, picked stones (lots of stones!)

Louise was baptized in Trinity Lutheran Church in Strathcona by Pastor Martin Ruccius. The Lueders attended church and Sunday School at Trinity as often as possible. It was a long and often arduous journey to town, taking four to five hours each way by wagon, democrat or sleigh. They would take feed along for the horses.

The family looked forward to the children's programs at Christmas and Easter, where each child received a colored cooked egg. Louise was also confirmed at Trinity.

Louise also had to help look after her younger brother and sisters when she herself was still quite young. Her mother often helped clear land and do field work. But sometimes Grandma Jantz came and looked after all the children, to the great relief of Louise.

The Lueders family lived off the land. Much of their food consisted of prairie chickens, wild ducks, rabbits, berries, home grown potatoes and vegetables. In the winter when meat could be frozen, a beef was butchered. Fish were also available at Cooking Lake. Their clothing was homemade and quite plain.

One of the most beautiful sights that Louise remembered from her early years was an Indian wedding. Just south of the Lueders home, across the lake, lived a number of Indians. Once, they walked to the church in Ardrossan for a wedding. The trail wound by the Lueders' home. They wore elaborate beaded costumes that were contrasted so strongly with the plain homespun of the Lueders.

Bill and Louise started out with a cow and a heifer calf and 15 chickens as a dowry from Louises' parents. Mike and Kate Busenius also gave them five chickens. Bill already had some horses and a plough. He was given a spare granary from his father-in-law, and built a chicken barn with logs from the bush. Bull calves were often given away by local dairymen, so Bill and Louise occasionally got one and raised it for their own food.

In the early years of the Depression, Bill and Louise had accumulated many debts with little cash to pay them. Most of their produce was used for their own consumption. They did sell some butter and later cream and also eggs. At first they had no cream separator; they used a creamer which was a tall can with a spout on the bottom to drain skim milk after the cream had risen to the top. When clearing bush, Bill looked out for logs suitable for mine props. These props were exchanged for coal.

Bill and Louise bought the Canadian Pacific



Railway (CPR) land to the west across the road allowance from the home quarter. They were then able to get permission from the government to drain the lake which backed up on their property. The lake was a real problem. It had prevented the road from continuing south. Instead a trail went through Bill's property, going by right in front of the kitchen window, continuing south-east, through his brother Mike's yard, and then onto the road allowance. After the lake was drained, it was still several years before the road was completed, but the trail through Bill's and Mike's property was still used as a short cut for many years after the road was built.



*1944 - Clarence, Elsie and Eleanor Busenius beside the 1938 Hudson.*

Unfortunately, payments on the second quarter of land could not be made, so the land was repossessed by C.P.R. In spite of the meager conditions, travellers and out of work men were always welcome. During the Depression, Bill and Louise often had men staying with them while they looked for work. Like so many of their friends and neighbors, they provided shelter and food for those who had no place of their own or work to earn their livelihood.

Louise was also the neighborhood barber, cutting hair in the kitchen. A haircut at the Busenius' was also a social occasion, providing a chance to chat and visit.

Although Bill and Louise were married at Trinity by Pastor K. Freitag, they participated in Sunday worship services in various homes in the distict. This continued for some years until the St. John's congregation was formed and a church built. Bill and Louise were founding members of the new congregation. Bill helped to build the church, and served as councilman. Together, they were active in

different segments of the church life. Louise had been a member of the Ladies Aid since its beginning.

In 1941, Bill bought a cottage at Cooking Lake and moved it to the farm. He enlarged it, and it became the new family house. The old log cabin was used as a garage for many years after that. In 1938, they purchased their first car, a 1929 Chevrolet. Later, in the 1950's the house was enlarged again, and modernized with electricity and plumbing.

Their son, Clarence, and son-in-law John took over the farming operation after Bill and Louise's retirement.



*1970 - Busenius Family; Back; Ed Schiewe, Wilhelm, Clarence, John Rose Front; Elsie, Louise, Mary, Eleanor*

Bill and Louise have three children. Clarence was born in 1930. He married Mary Laiss and they live on the southwest corner of the home quarter. They have 4 children; Ken, Joan (married Gary Adam), Donna and Roy. Elsie was born in 1931, married Ed Schiewe and lives south of Edmonton. They have five children, Wayne (married Tabea Vitt), Don, Terry, Bruce and Marlin. Eleanor, born in 1941, is married to John Rose and they live on the home place. They have three children, Elizabeth, David and Ron.

## **BUSS, GOTTLIEB and ANNA**

*by Anna Buss*

My husband, Gottlieb, whom we all call George, took up farming in the South Cooking Lake area just one year before the economic crash of 1929, and before the beginning of the Depression. He eventually lost everything, as did many other farmers, especially the beginners, before the Provincial Government forbid any further foreclosures.

Already in 1928 we were engaged to be married. The event took place on March 5 of 1931. Our honeymoon consisted of a train ride from Edmonton to Bretona, a distance of some 12 miles or 20

minutes. It was also my first train ride. One of the first things we did was approach the Imperial Bank of Commerce for a loan of a few hundred dollars. Money was not easy to come by. We rented a quarter of land with a huge log house on it. I'll never forget the experience; we used part of the house for our living quarters, the centre part for grain storage and the rest as a chicken coop. Coyotes would howl at night, and the frost would cause everything to creak. Before bedtime we would have tea. Next morning what water had remained in the kettle was frozen solid. We thanked God for the heavy feather quilt that kept us warm.



*1948 - Arden Buss*

Our first child, Marian Ruth, was born in 1932. "We will have a hard time making ends meet now," I said to George.

He looked at me with a grin and replied, "Gibt der liebe Gott ein Häschen, gibt er auch ein Gräschen." And so it was. We were very happy with our daughter.

In late fall of 1933 Pastor Kreitlow of the Bruederfeld Moravian Church paid us a visit and asked if we would host worship services in our home. We agreed, and a service was held every two weeks throughout the winter months. This arrangement continued for a few years.

In 1934, after the birth of our son, Arden Lawrence, over whom we were again very happy, and following several moves from Colchester District to Fultonvale, once more a pastor came to pay us a visit regarding services in our home. He was a Lutheran

named H. Luetkehoelter. Once more we agreed. As soon as the weather was warm we met outside under the huge trees. I do not recall that we were ever rained out. I believe about fifteen families came to the service. In 1941 several acres of property were purchased and Zion Lutheran Church was built. Pastor Paul Hanneman of St. John's Ardrossan came in the late forties. That is when Wilfred and Marian met and were married in 1952, and Arden finished high school.

I said to my husband, "George, you promised that when the kids are through high school I could go out and try for a job." The economy had been recovering and opportunities had increased.

"Honey, you go try for a job," he replied, "and perhaps after harvest I'll go look for one too."

My success surprised even me. Arden and I were driving along Whyte Avenue of Edmonton when we noticed a sign in the restaurant window "Help wanted. Dishwasher." I applied within and immediately met the boss for an interview.

"You can start right now," he said.

I was so shocked that I replied "Not today! Not today! I promised my husband that I would come home today, but I could come back in the morning." And so it was.

I began at eight the next morning and will never forget my first cheque from one week's work - seventeen dollars. I had been promoted to short order cook by this time, and after a few months, a crisis developed between the chef and head waitress. The boss fired them both and approached me to be the head cook.

"You will take Peter's place!" the boss said. I was so shocked that I muttered, "I'm not ready, I'm not ready."

He looked at me with a grin on his face and in a rough toned voice said, "Oh yes, you are. I've been watching you for quite some time. You'll make out just fine." and he turned and walked away. In a few minutes he was back carrying a chef's hat. It was about fourteen inches high.

"Oh, not that." I said.

He walked away again and returned shortly with a hat that looked something like an airforce cap. "Try this," he said. I did and it was okay. "Great, get to work." And so it was, that I had become Chef of Henry's Steakhouse.

After harvest George also found a job, also without trouble, at the Edmonton Dairy Pool. With winter coming on, however, George knew the job would be very hard on his back. He had been a very sick man in his younger years - from 28-35. Doctors had not expected him to live. Through an invitation



from friends George applied with the Dept. of Highways of Alberta and ended up as a watchman, a policeman in plain clothes. George was with the Government of Alberta for fifteen years. He had a heart problem for many years and as he got older it became worse and forced him into early retirement.

As years went by families began to move from the Fultonvale district. Some went to the city where their jobs were. We also sold our acreage at Fultonvale and moved into Edmonton. There we became members of Trinity Lutheran on 81 Avenue. When George retired, after living in the city for fifteen years, he wanted to get back out on an acreage, and this we did. We settled in the Ardrossan area and transferred our membership to St. John's congregation. In total we moved from place to place twenty five times - twenty six for me. It was not always sunshine to move. Many tears were shed, especially when we were forcibly moved out of rental property. God was always there to help.



*1951 - Marion Buss*

I am thankful for neighbors and the many friends who were so helpful when George was in the hospital. May God bless them all. We had enjoyed our years of retirement. With a truck and camper we had done quite a lot of travelling in the last years. After several heart attacks George was taken by ambulance to the University Hospital where he died on December 3, 1978. Whenever I hear an ambulance siren it still

bothers me, but life has to go on.

In April of 1979, I went to the University Hospital myself - for a hip joint replacement, and in October the other one was done too. That was the time when I did not care to live any longer. I asked God to take me home. I also knew that many people were praying for me, my family, our Pastor, and many from the congregation. I know that God had performed one of his miracles or I would have never made it. I was healed "over night." I am thankful to all who prayed for me and I give God the praise and glory.



*1973 - Buss Family: Marion, Gottlieb, Anna and Arden*

After my surgery I went back to driving a car. I made all my tests the first time around, thanks to Pastor Pudrycki who got me started with a few driving lessons. I can now attend worship regularly. I have attended Bible Studies, am a member of the Faithful Helper's Circle (St. John's womens' group), also, I do volunteer work at the University Hospital and the Seventh Day Adventist Home in Sherwood Park; also at the Clover Bar Senior Home in Sherwood Park and other places. I have composed five gospel hymns that I sometimes sing, either in solo or duet arrangements. Hymns bring smiles and sometimes tears from nursing home or hospital patients.

To God be the glory, great things he has done.

A few concluding words about roots and branches:

My family name was Martins. My father, David Martins was born in 1881 in Grachnovitz, Zhitomer, Wolhynia, Russia. He married Natalie Seigel in 1902 and they practiced dairy farming. My husband's father, Peter Buss, was born in 1862 in Warsaw, Poland. He married Caroline Perske in 1883. They

emigrated to the United States in 1901 and settled in Wisconsin. After several months they moved to Canada and lived on a farm in Leduc, New Sarepta, and Hay Lakes, in turn. Peter had been a high school teacher and farmer.

Our own children live in the Edmonton area. Marian was baptized at the Bruederfeld Moravian Church, confirmed at Trinity and was married to Wilfred Hanneman by Pastor Paul Hanneman on June 12, 1952. Both are teachers. They live on a farm at Ardrossan, they have two children, Kurt and Lynette.

Arden was baptized at the Bruederfeld Moravian Church, confirmed at Zion Fultonvale and married in 1955. His wife is Hazel (Stedel). Arden is a captain Dispatcher for the Fire Department in Edmonton and Hazel is a retired waitress. They live at Southgate, Edmonton and have two children Zen and Glenda.

## **CERETZKE, GUS and ELSIE**

*by Elsie Ceretzke*

It was in the year 1933 that Gus bought a bush quarter from the C.P.R. The land is located south of the Fultonvale school and complex. Like all homesteaders, we started farming. We broke some land every year until there wasn't very much bush left. We built up buildings and everything else that comes with the occupation of farming. As the years passed by, our first son, Gordon, was born Dec. 1942, Glen, our second son was born Oct. 1948 and our daughter, Shirley, was born Oct. 1952. All our children were baptized in the Lutheran faith by Rev. G. Wiese and Pastor P. Hanneman. When the Fultonvale Sister Congregation was organized, we helped with the construction of the church and also took part in it for a number of years.

When the new St. John's Lutheran Church was built in 1964, the Fultonvale Sister Church was sold. That was when we decided to attend the Ardrossan St. John's Lutheran Church. I joined the Ladies Aid which I looked forward to once every month. Our two sons, Gordon and Glen, played in the Missal band, which at that time played every Sunday. It gave them a chance to learn and play their music, and attend church services at the same time. In 1974, after 40 years of farming we sold the land to a developer, and retired to Sherwood Park.

Our children are all married now and have homes for themselves, and us two older ones are now enjoying our grandchildren.

Gordon married Shirley Fibke. They are in mixed farming north of Mundare and have two children Kevin and Kerri.



*August 1966 - Ceretzke Family L-R: Glenn, Minnie, Rev. Henry Trawny, Gus, Elsie, Shirley, Gordon*

Glen married Roberta Wiebe. They are also in mixed farming south of Tofield and have two children, Courtney and Trevor.

Shirley married Andy Herrera. They are living in Fultonvale, Avery Park with their two children Clinton and Carmen.

## **CLIPPERTON, DON and KAREN, TREVOR and TROY**

*by Karen*

You live through it, you carry on. Everything that has happened, all the good times and some bad are what make up what we are today.

I was born in Edmonton, Alberta to Herbert and Pearl Neumann, the oldest of three children. I was baptized at Trinity Lutheran Church, where my parents were married. At the young age of 10 months my family moved to a little village called Linaria which is north east of Westlock. In Linaria Dad and Mom owned a country store. We lived in the back of the store. Here the family increased when my sister, Donna, was born. Five years later Dad sold the store and bought another one. This time we moved to Sangudo. Dad and Mom worked very hard and built the store up to where we had groceries, clothing, hardware and almost anything else a person required. Disaster was to befall us there - the store burned to the ground. It was a very big fire and left a definite mark on me. Fires scare me.

With no business now and only two old houses to their name, they sold the houses and moved back to Edmonton. I was now 10 years old. Dad and Mom bought another store, this time just groceries and meats. It was in the Parkallen area and we lived above the store.

A year later mom was expecting her third child.



We again hit more hardship. This time a flood. Mom was near her time and Donna was too young to really help in the rescue operation. Water was pouring into the basement. While Dad was tall enough, I had to swim, paddle and walk in the water. I can remember specifically rescuing meat from the basement water - and soap. The soap was all boxed and each box of soap had a face cloth. We saved the face cloths but the soap went. To say the least, the flood waters and the dissolving soap made salvaging of our store stock from the basement a very slippery business. Dad and I were very wet and soapy, but poor Mom and Donna were exhausted running up and down stairs for hours.

We survived that round and Mom had a very healthy little boy 2 or 3 weeks later. John was born in 1954 and in 1955 we moved into a house. It was so nice to finally have room, lots of room to play and a big yard to play in.

I went to school at Allendale Junior High. Our family were still members of Trinity Lutheran Church. There, I was a member in Canadian Girls in Training for years. Another girl and myself were later to become C.G.I.T. leaders. I also attended the Trinity Youth Group after confirmation. Confirmation classes had been something else. All we did was memorize. I think I was "saved" by the socializing that happened in the groups that I belonged to.

While I attended Camrose Lutheran College taking my Grade 10, Mom and Dad sold their store and home and moved to Bonnie Doon area. Dad worked for a Grocery Wholesaler for a couple of years then bought into the upholstery business. By now we were members of the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church later to become Ascension Lutheran. I came home from Camrose and finished my high school education at Bonnie Doon. After high school I took a hairdressing course and then moved to Vilna to operate a shop there. It was there that I met my husband-to-be, Don Clipperton. He had been transferred there by the Toronto Dominion Bank.

Don grew up on his family's farm near Cold Lake, Alberta. His father had homesteaded there. Don's father, Jim Clipperton, met Gladys Roth, were married and had seven children. While Don's mom stayed home and looked after the farm and the children, in the winter, Dad would go to the bush and cut lumber all winter. The rest of the year they were kept busy on their mixed farming operation. Don has fond memories of the family gathering around the old kitchen wood stove. It had the heavy oven door which one could sit on, and the copper reservoir on the right hand side. All would gather around it in the

evenings in order to stay warm, a different kind of thing from gathering around a television set in our time. Such stoves caused a natural "communion" of the family. A stove does not demand the same attention and it generates and encourages conversation; television demands all attention and tends to stifle conversation.

Don is the third oldest child in his family, consisting of four boys and three girls. His three brothers, John, James and Kenneth have all passed away and his father also in 1981. Before Jim and Ken passed away they were farming and working in the Cold Lake area. Don at 17 years old left Cold Lake to work in the Toronto Dominion Bank in Elk Point, Alberta. From Elk Point, Don worked in Vilna, Lloydminster and finally ended his banking career in Edmonton.

Don and I married in Edmonton at Ascension Lutheran in 1963. In March 1964, Don left the bank and started working for my Dad in the upholstery business. We lived in Edmonton for five years and were blessed with three sons.

Darin, born in 1965, Trevor 1966 and Troy 1968. Darin passed away November 28, 1973 at the tender age of eight years. It is of this that I say, we live through it. At the time you feel that you don't have the strength to carry on, but God gives us the strength as needed. That all happened years ago, but it is as if Darin is not gone, as if he is always with us. Maybe this is what is meant by the line in the creed, I believe in . . . the communion of saints. Those in harmony with each other, and with God are a communion both now and eternally.

In 1968 we moved our family to Collingwood Cove, and Cooking Lake, and it is from here that we made contact with the St. John's Lutheran Church, Ardrossan, congregation. Hard times are usually your fondest memories. The first few years at the lake were certainly hard times. The winter of 1968 '69 was one of the coldest we had had in many years. Don would often have to drive back home after he just got to work, because of heating or well problems. It was so cold that the propane would not flow and he would have to unthaw the lines. But the beauty of the frost and snow compensated for the cold. Then summer would come and on full moon nights the lake was absolutely beautiful. Our front yard led down to the lake and one never tired of the scenery and the beauty of nature.

In 1971, when Dad sold out, we bought into the company and operate it now as our family business.

While we worshipped at St. John's congregation, beginning already in 1972, we did not actually become members until 1974. We have found many

warm hearted people in the congregation.

Our boys, both confirmed their faith at St. John's; Trevor in 1980 and Troy in 1982. Trevor went on to take his high school at Concordia College and is now taking university level classes there. Troy is finishing his schooling in Sherwood Park at Salisbury Composite High School. Grandma and Grandpa, my parents, Herb and Pearl Neumann, also live out in the Ardrossan area now, as well as John and his wife Monica and their children, Ryan and Deanna. Mom and Dad, John and Monica are also members of our congregation.

In 1979 we left Collingwood Cove and moved to an acreage on Range Road 215. Hopefully we will stay here, God willing. Rural living is definitely a plus for our family. We enjoy the quiet, open area and warm fellowship that country living and small congregations give us.

## **DOBERSTEIN, EMIL and HERTA**

*by Emil Doberstein*

I, Emil, was born in the Ukraine Jan. 6, 1926, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. William Doberstein.

My wife, Herta, was also born in the Ukraine. She was the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Reinhold Busenius, born on April 3, 1928.

We both endured the ravages of the war in Europe. We met in Germany.

Herta and I were married soon after in Hünfeld, Germany on August 8, 1948. Walter, our first child, was born on July 6, 1948. Herta's parents emigrated to Canada the following year. On April 18, 1950 we were blessed with our second child, a daughter, Gisela.

The four of us then emigrated to Canada, joining with Herta's family in February 1951. Settling, in the Ardrossan area, after working for a few dairy farmers, we became members of the St. John's Lutheran church.



1953 - Gisella, Hertha, Walter, Emil and Margaret Doberstein

While living on the corner lot of Herta's parents property our last child, Margarete, a girl, was born to us on October 24, 1952. Margarete was baptized in the church on a frosty winter morning, by Pastor Paul Hanneman on December 14, 1952. The following spring Herta and I bought property of our own, just one and a half miles south of Herta's folks.

For years Herta, the children and I worshipped at St. John's Lutheran church. Herta joined the Ladies Aid and even served two terms as president. I served as a church councillor and was elected by the building committee for the new St. John's Lutheran church building.

Under Pastor Hanneman's spiritual guidance, Herta and I raised and confirmed our children in the Lutheran faith; Walter on May 7, 1961, Gisela May 31, 1964 and Margarete May 29, 1966.

Time passed quickly, a few short years later our youngest, Margarete, got married to Pat Nixon on July 12, 1969. Pastor Paul Hanneman presiding. Walter and Gisela soon after, moved to Edmonton where Walter still lives with his wife and children. Gisela married and moved to Australia.

After many good years I retired as a carpenter and Herta retired as a farmer. Herta and I officially resigned as members of the church in 1982. Holding in our hearts many memories, we are thankful that so many church members allowed us to share in their lives.

## **DOMKE, GUS and CLARA**

*by Clara Domke*

In the year 1927 in March, my parents emigrated to Canada from West Germany. They came in a big ship which took about ten days to two weeks.

There still was snow on the ground when they arrived in Canada, quite a change from green grass



1968 - Willy, Elsie, Augusta, Clara, Hilda, Freda Trawnny



and flowers -- when they left Germany.

Looma was my parents' first home, when they came to Canada. Although times were hard in the thirties, my Dad had still earned a good wage in Germany.

Dad wanted to leave Germany because he couldn't see a future there. He was happy to own his own land here.

It was a big step for them to come to a strange country. My Mom shed many a tear, as she missed her native land. She had to work so hard, to make a living; the price of cattle, pigs, and eggs were really low at the time.

There were six children in our family, two boys and four girls; I am the youngest. Four were born in Germany. My sister Freda and I were born in a log house in Looma, Alberta.

In 1936 my mother and father moved to a farm in Adrossan, Alberta. I wasn't quite five years old yet, however, I remember just a little. They drove the cattle all the way from Looma, about twenty miles, and loaded the furniture on a hayrack and hauled it with horses.

Dad and Mom made trips to Edmonton every two months or so which was over twenty miles. We travelled with horse and buggy, or with the big wagon, when they had pigs for market. They left around five o'clock in the morning and returned late at night.

The oldest in the family is my brother, Henry. He lives in Nebraska, U.S.A. with his wife Minnie. He was a pastor and is now retired. They have three children, one son and two daughters.

Second is my brother William, we call him Willie. He lives in Edmonton and has two daughters. Willie's first wife passed away in May of 1969 and his second wife died in January 1980. His first wife's name was Irene Nickel. He worked a number of years for Canada Packers and is also retired now.



*1969 - Minnie, Pastor Henry Trawny holding their first grandchild*

My sister Elsie is married to Gus Ceretzke. They farmed a good number of years across from the Fultonvale School. They are now living in the Hamlet of Sherwood Park, Alberta. They have three children, two sons and one daughter.

Next is my late sister Hilda who was married to John Sanders of Carseland, Alberta. They had one son and one daughter. Hilda had been sick with cancer, before she died in May 1974.

Then, my late sister Freda who was married to Norman Mohr of Josephburg, Alberta. They had six children, three sons and three daughters. Freda passed away in December of 1974; Norman died in March 1968.

My sister Freda and I (Clara) had fun times together on the farm. We worked with horses in the field, pitched a lot of hay and shovelled lots of grain during threshing time. It seemed like in those days, nobody was really afraid of work. On Saturday nights Freda and I would get our Dad's 1929 car and attend some local dances. If we didn't have our work done, Dad wouldn't let us have the car on Saturday night. He would hide the keys! This was in the forties when my sister and I helped on the farm.



*Oct. 1950 - Wedding of Gus and Clara (Trawny) Domke*

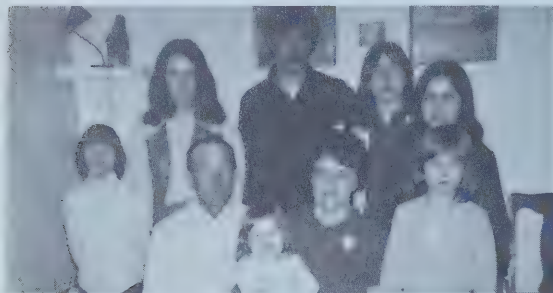
In October, 1950, I married Gus Domke. He is originally from Tomahawk, Alberta. Gus is a carpenter by trade. He worked with his Dad, before we were married, and is still in the same business now. He did a little farming on the side. We bought the farm we are living on now from my parents in March 1951.

We have one son and six daughters. From oldest to youngest there is: Darlene, Jean, Dennis, Eileen, Carol, Karen and Colleen.

Jean is married to Dave Baran. Eileen is married to

Dave Turner.

All of our seven children were baptized and confirmed in the same church in which I was confirmed and married in, except for Eileen, who was baptized in the Immanuel Lutheran Church of Tomahawk, Alberta. Two of our children were also married in St. John's Lutheran Church in Ardrossan, so far . . . (the same church Gus and I have been and still are members since 1952). My, how time flies. Now we are grandparents already. Our Grandchildrens names are: Lana Mae Turner and Roger Baran.



1971 - Domke family: Back: Jean, Dennis, Darlene, Eileen Front: Carol, Gus, Clara holding Colleen, Karen.

Now back to my Mom and Dad. They were members of St. John's Lutheran Church, Ardrossan, from 1936-1954. Dad passed on, in August 1956 at the age of seventy years and my Mom passed away in January 1971 at eighty-one.



1985 - Domke family: Back: Dennis, Karen, Carol, Colleen Front: Darlene, Clara, Gus, Eileen, Jean

"God Bless them" for our up-bringing and for all the things they had done for us. They are now resting in peace at Josephburg, Alberta.

## DUNSE, REINHARD and DIANNE

by Dianne Dunse

In the Dunse family of four, there are Reinhard, Dianne, Kevin and last, but not least, Kim.



The Dunse home in Beverly Hills, near Ardrossan.

Reinhard was born in Germany and came to Canada with his mother and sister in 1955. He attended school in the Beaverlodge, Alberta area, then came to Edmonton in 1964 to attend Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) for two years, graduating with a diploma in Electronic Technology. In 1966 he joined Alberta Government Telephones and has worked for them ever since, presently as foreman in the Installation Department. I was born in Swift Current, Sask, and attended schools across the country as my father was in the Armed Forces. I lived in Fort Nelson, B.C., Sydney, Nova Scotia, Holberg, Vancouver Island and finally Beaverlodge. I came to Edmonton in 1964 and



The Duneses in Ottawa on the Rideau Canal near the Parliament Buildings.



completed my Bachelor of Education at the University of Alberta. Since then I have taught in various schools in the Edmonton area and with the County of Strathcona since 1972. I am presently teacher-librarian in the Uncas Elementary Junior-High School. Kevin was born in Edmonton in 1972 and attends Ardrossan Jr. Sr. High School. Kim was also born in Edmonton in 1974 and attends Ardrossan Elementary School.

In 1973 our family moved to an acreage near Ardrossan and have enjoyed twelve years of shaping a small piece of land into "home" and into a place for hobby gardening. We took a two year working break in Ottawa, Ontario from 1980-1982. We used that home as a base to travel and discover the "East" from St. John's, Newfoundland to Miami, Florida; from lobster feasts to Space Shuttle launchings; travelling by car, by motorcycle, by airplane and by boat! It was a great learning experience for us all, leaving us with a lifelong collection of memories and friendships.



*Reinhard and Dianne on a Motorcycling holiday.*

We have belonged to the St. John's Lutheran Church since Kim was baptized by Pastor O. Goos in 1974. Reinhard was on the Church Council for two years and was delegated as secretary and now I am taking my turn as Councillor, also as secretary and as the editor of the church newsletter, the Roadrunner. Kevin completed confirmation classes under the tutelage of Pastor Pudrycki and Kim enjoys Sunday School in the Grade 5 - 6 class.

## **EGGERT, ERWIN and SELMA**

*by Erwin Eggert*

Because of the Second World War, my home land, the Eastern part of Germany was lost to Communist

countries. Temporary work was found in West Germany, but the atmosphere there still did not represent a 'home'. So I (Erwin) searched for greener pasture elsewhere. Canada came to mind, because I already had an uncle in that country. The decision was made and in 1953 I emigrated to Canada. Selma, also somewhat dissatisfied in Germany, decided to take advantage of an invitation by the Canadian government. She also emigrated to Canada in 1953. Once we met in this country, we found we had a lot of things in common, amongst them the goal to make a home here in Canada. This led to a decision to a small wedding in November, 1954.



*1984 - Eggert Family L-R: Erwin, Ernie, Edith, Jennifer, Harold, Janet and Selma Seated.*

My first job in this country was the painting of the steeple at St. John Lutheran Church, Edmonton, where Pastor Krisch became a good friend of mine. He also received us as members and performed our wedding. One of his informal instructions was, should you take your wife to the hospital for child birth, the rule in this country is to have one hand on the steering wheel and the other on the horn. This first happened in November 1955 when our first son, Harold, was born. We were also blessed 3 years later with a daughter, Edith and another son, Ernest, after another 5 years. All were baptized in St. John Lutheran, Edmonton, and only Harold was confirmed there.

In 1956 we purchased our first home in the city of Edmonton. After ten years of living there we realized that we both missed the country, as both of us originated from a farm background. An acreage, which was within our financial reach, became a reality when we purchased 40 acres in the Ardrossan area in 1966. The house and other buildings were built in the years to come.

We soon realized we were unable to live the 2 lives; being active in the church in Edmonton and keep up

with the establishment of a new home in Ardrossan. As we approached Pastor L. Schoepp (then active in St. John, Edmonton) for a transfer, he advised us that it is good to live and to PRAY with your neighbours.

In 1969 we transferred to St. John's Lutheran, Ardrossan, where both Edith and Ernest were confirmed. During the years all of us took part in various functions: music, council, Sunday School, youth, and treasurer.

It is a privilege to be a member of this congregation with great friendships among members and a loving spiritual leader with the true word of God provided by Pastor Pudrycki.

It is because of all this, that we established a home that is now known to our children as their home.

Harold, who is now married to Janet, lives in Calgary. They have been blessed with a daughter (Jennifer) born in 1983. They have transferred to a congregation in Calgary where they are active members at this time.

## FELSKE, OLGA and ERIC

*by Olga Felske*

I was born at Compeer, Alberta. When my parents, Gus and Augusta Adam and family moved to Sherwood Park, - then known as Salisbury - I was one year old. We then moved to Ardrossan, a very scary experience for me as I was plunked on a wagon of grain and sent along to my new home with Bill Busenius, a member of the church who had come to help.



*Nov. 14, 1978 - Back: Eric and Olga Front: Verna, Errin, Lorraine Felske.*

Over the years I attended school at Garden and Salisbury High School. While attending the Garden School, I had the opportunity to try and teach Elsie and Ida Busenius to speak English, who with their parents had shortly arrived from Germany. For two

and a half months of that school year and with the cloak room as our class room, I did the best I could, despite the fact I could not speak German that well. The first words they learned was "shut up", as I didn't know the German word for "keep quiet". The girls went home and told their Uncle Mike to find out what the word "shut up" meant. Guess what? The next morning their uncle came to school, demanding why the girls had been taught to say "shut up". Poor Mr. Stephenson, our teacher, had to explain.

I was confirmed and married in the St. John's Lutheran Church in Ardrossan. I married Eric Felske in 1953 and moved into Eric's Aunt Renas's home place across from Eric's folks, - William and Christina Felske - where Eric had been born and raised and where we still live today.

We had both dairy cattle and grain farming on our farm for many years. There was lots of hard work, but many rewards.

After Mom Adam died in 1973, my sister, Millie, and her husband Mike, and I took care of Dad. He stayed with Millie most of the time, but he loved to visit often and enjoyed being with Eric and the kids. He loved telling stories of the old times.

Eric and I were blessed with three children: Verna, Lorraine and Errin.

Verna is now on her own in Edmonton with three children: Charlene, Bradley and Adam. She drives bus for Briggs.



*1983 - Felske Family: Standing: Larry Siemen, Eric, Errin Seated: Lorraine, Olga, Verna*

Lorraine married Larry Semen in 1983; they reside in Lloydminster where Larry is in partnership with H & E Oil Field Services. They have one daughter, Amanda.

Errin is living at home filling out his education in his trade as a mechanic, while working for the county of Strathcona. Errin was the first baby to be baptized



in our new church in 1964. We also had six foster children.

I have been involved in the Arts in our community, having taught ceramics in the Ardrossan, Fultonvale and Uncas schools. I also taught in my shop at home since 1973. I attended a floral designing school in 1983 and have done floral arranging for a number of weddings. Perhaps in the future I would like to open a flowershop. Eric is now semi-retired from farming and is working for Isothane, in Sherwood Park, while I work part-time at Touch World Enterprises where I get a salary for doing Arts and Crafts that I enjoy so much.

Both Eric and I have been involved with our church in many different positions. Eric has been on the church council in the past and is presently serving another term. We both sing in the church choir. I taught Sunday School for many seasons and always enjoyed the kindergarten the very best. I loved being "Auntie Olga" to so many.

We now have time to spoil and enjoy our grandchildren and to visit friends and family or to go camping and fishing. We've also done some traveling to Germany, Hawaii and California. Life has been good to us.

## **FELSKE, GERHARDT and MARTHA**

*by Martha Felske*

Martha Felske (Otto) was born in the Bremner district, which is now the Wye Subdivision. Martha was christened in Trinity Lutheran Church, South Edmonton, and confirmed by Pastor Luetkehoelter, also in South Edmonton Trinity Lutheran Church.



*1964 - Evelyn, Keith, Delbert, Helen and Lois Felske in front*

In 1943, Gerhardt and Martha were married by Pastor Weise at St. John's Lutheran Church, Ardrossan. They then moved to the farm, where they farmed for many years.

Gerhardt worked for the County of Strathcona for twenty years and retired in 1976.

Martha joined St. John's Lutheran Church Ladies Aid in 1943.

Gerhardt and Martha were blessed with five children: Evelyn, Helen, Delbert, Keith and Lois, who were all baptized and confirmed in St. John's Lutheran Church, Ardrossan.



*1976 - Martha and Gerhardt Felske*

Evelyn married Einar Lundquist. Helen married Harvey Howell at St. John's Lutheran Church, Ardrossan. Delbert married Diane Ledoux in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Keith and Lois are single.

Gerhardt and Martha celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on March 13, 1968. Gerhardt passed away Feb. 15, 1977 at the age of 61 years.

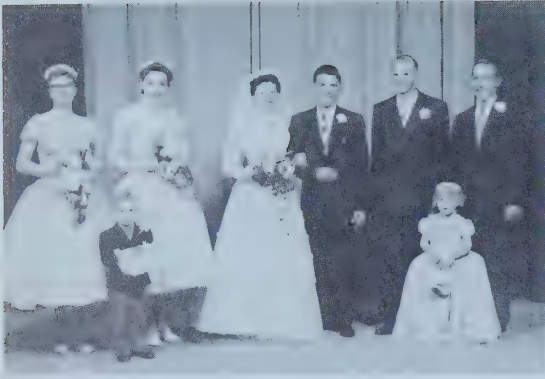
## **FELSKE, PAUL and DORIS**

*by Doris Felske*

Paul was born December 17, 1925 in Ardrossan, son of Wilhelm and Christina Felske (Reichart) and was baptized, Paul Richard, on February 27, 1926 in the Trinity Lutheran Church, South Edmonton, by Pastor W. Wahl. His Godparents were Friedrich Klatt and Pauline Wesenberg. He received his education at the Glen Garden School. After confirmation classes were completed, he was confirmed by Pastor H.W. Luetkehoelter on March 25, 1940 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Ardrossan.

As a small boy, Paul often sat on the kitchen table in the morning, looking out the window watching his Dad and Mother doing the chores, he saw an episode he has not forgotten to this very day.

Their long horned bull was feeding amongst the cattle and horses in the corral; one horse aggravated the bull, who with one swing of his long horn, gored the horse in the chest, killing it instantly. Animals



1958 - Back Row L to R: Doris Fester, Frieda Adolf, Doris & Paul Felske, Arthur Birkholz, Adolph Adam  
Front: Walter Kuerbis, Verna Felske.

were the main source of survival and losing a valuable horse at that time was a great loss.

His dad decided to sell the bull then and there. He realized that the beast would be difficult to catch in the corral; that he would also need some help. They chased the bull into an old barn. No one was rash enough to risk going in the barn to put a rope around his neck, after what had already happened. A hole was cut in the ceiling, large enough to manouver a rope, but not fall through. They succeeded in getting a rope over the bull's head and attempted to get him up the chute (ramp for loading cattle) but that is as far as he would go.

All action stopped, until some workable plans were formulated. It was decided one man would confront the bull and entice him to charge. If and when this would happen, our "Matador" would run up the chute, across the truck and over the front end gate. They didn't go through a trial run, but a brave man volunteered anyway, clambered into the chute, got the bull into action, raced up the chute and with two strides was up and over the end gate to safety. It worked!

Reflecting back to the past of his younger years, these events left a strong impression on his mind. As young children on the farm, in the summertime, it was their chore to get the milk cows every evening from about 160 acres of solid bush. They never were too happy about this chore. Harry Burke, the neighbor to the south, had a big Holstein bull, which came to visit the milk cows. This certain day Paul and his older sister Hilda, were sent to get the cows.

The pasture gate was just below the crest of a hill. The cows were at the gate, ready to come home. Paul and Hilda crept up and peeked over the hill top; sure enough, there was that big bad bull among the cows.

No way! They started back home. Let some one else get the cows! As they went over the hill towards home, the barb wire started creaking behind them. They thought - here comes the bull! They started to run. There was a louder creaking of wire. Paul relates afterward that he figured he could run as fast as Hilda any day. But she put her gears in overdrive and left Paul way behind, hollering his head off. That bull wasn't even chasing them; the cows must have bumped into the fence.

In another incident, in regards to this same bull, Paul went alone for the cows one evening. A bell had been tied around the neck of three of the most active cows, as they were difficult to find in the bush. When he finally located the cows, he would scurry from behind one tree to the next, because that bull could be there, again. Sure enough, there he was. All of a sudden Paul looked up; there sat a real Indian on his horse among the cows. Paul told him he was scared of the bull. He never said anything, just rounded up the bull and was gone.



1944 - Paul Felske

Paul has been singing tenor in the choir since it first started. His other music abilities are the accordion and guitar, majoring in the latter and playing for different occasions as an accompanist.

I was born April 14, 1935 daughter of Ludwig and Karolina (Keller) Adolph and baptized, Doris Alma Margaret, at St. Paul's Lutheran church in Rollyview on June 3, 1935 by Pastor J. Bergbush. My Godparents were Rudolf and Emma Schmidt of Rollyview. I was the youngest child in a family of thirteen.

My family was on the move again, first to Edmonton, next to Rollyview and New Sarepta area. We got to know many Pastors. Pastor F. Rehn with his family came often to visit us at our farm in Rollyview. Pastors H. Luetkehoelter followed by L.



Schoepp served our ministerial needs at New Sarepta.

In 1945, we moved to British Columbia and lived at Langley for a year and a half. Here three events occurred that stay embedded in my mind. One that affected the immediate family was sad, the death of my sister, Esther. The other had world wide repercussions, but with rejoicing, the end of the Second World War. The last one, earth shaking in actuality, yet local in extent, was when a quake hit Vancouver. Your mind doesn't accept the fact that the furniture moves about, without any visible means of propulsion, while the house rocks on its foundation.

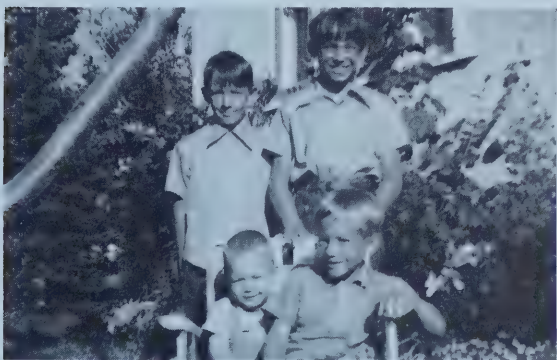
The fall of 1946, we returned by train to our farm in New Sarepta. I attended the New Sarepta Village school where I finished my education. Taking my confirmation instructions from Pastor A. Wilke, I was confirmed on September 11, 1949, in the St. John's Lutheran church, New Sarepta.

From 1955 to '57 I worked in Edmonton; first for Dr. and Mrs. T.C. Wilson, then at Woodwards, until I met Paul. We were married at St. John's Lutheran church, Ardrossan, by Pastor Hanneman. My family was so pleased, at our wedding, to be able to visit with Pastor Hanneman and his wife and talk with them again.

I now joined the choir and sang in it ever since.

Our marriage was blessed with four sons. Wayne Paul, the oldest, was born November 13, 1959. He was baptized December 13, 1959, and confirmed October 29, 1972 by Pastor Hanneman. His sponsors were Gerhardt and Martha Felske. His music ability was such that he was called on to play on anniversaries and on other occasions. He also played the trombone in the church band.

Brian Robert, born April 13, 1962 was baptized May 13, 1962 at St. John's by Pastor Hanneman. His sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. Fred Leinweber. Brian



1972 - Standing: Brian, Wayne Seated: Grant, Melvin Felske

was confirmed by Pastor A. Querengesser on August 8, 1976. He also, is musically inclined, playing the saxophone in the church band and the bass guitar for different programs. He plays the organ for the German services.

Melvin Barry was born November 17, 1967, baptized on December 17, 1967 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Ardrossan by Pastor Hanneman. His sponsors were Eric and Olga Felske. He was confirmed by Pastor R. Pudrycki on May 24, 1981.

Grant Floyd, the youngest, was born January 13, 1971. Grant was baptized at St. John's Lutheran Church, Ardrossan, by Pastor Hanneman on February 28, 1971. His Godparents are Carl and Clara Fode. Confirmation classes were taught to him by Pastor R. Pudrycki, and confirmed on May 27, 1984.

Three of our children were born on the thirteenth day of the month and on a Friday! They all attended Sunday School and confirmation class at St. John's.

My parents were laid to rest; my father Ludwig Adolph on June 7, 1961, with Pastor K. Freitag officiating; my mother, Karoline, on December 7, 1980 with Pastor R. Pudrycki officiating. My Father reached the age of 81 and mother 93 years.

Paul and Doris celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on August 28, 1983, at the St. John's Lutheran church with an evening service by Pastor Pudrycki. The choir sang under the direction of Joedy Missal.

## FELSKE, WILHELM and CHRISTINA

*by Doris Felske*

Wilhelm grew up and had his schooling in Rebkau, Poland where he was born on Sept. 4, 1886. He was confirmed on Sept. 16, 1900 at Lunau which is near the Weichsel river (Vistula) some miles south of Danzig (Gdansk).

As a young man he worked in the stables on government farms. He had a special assignment with his job, as a coachman, driving a four horse pacer team, taxying government officials to and from their rendezvous. The "special" part was that he had to stay with his team and chaise, whatever the weather.

He married Christina Rechart, who had been a servant at the government farms as well, on Feb. 13, 1912. Christina was born on Aug. 21, 1888 in Rebkau, grew up and received her education here. They emigrated to Canada in 1914 with two small children, Frieda, born Nov. 2, 1912 and Elsie Dorthée, born Feb. 6, 1914.

Their first home was in Ellerslie where they worked for Julius Treichel. Misfortune closed in on them when a fire destroyed their house, losing all their



*1944 - Felske family: Back Row: Frieda, Gerhardt, Elsie, Hilda Front: Eric, Wilhelm, Christine, Paul*

possessions. Well - not quite! Some how one of Wilhelm's Hi-top dress shoes that were brought along from Poland, was saved. Christina, who was home alone with her two children, was brave enough to climb up on the roof in an attempt to put out the chimney fire and in the process, fell off. She was expecting Gerhard at the time. He was born Sept. 1, 1916 - when he was expected to, none the worse for the episode - in Calmar, where they found another house to live in, at Fred Ankerstein's place.



*Mrs. Felske feeding chickens*

Christina's sister, Juliana Renas, lived in the Ardrossan area and when the quarter of land became available directly across the road from theirs, Wilhelm took advantage of this, bought the quarter and moved there at the first opportunity. As there were no buildings on the place, they took up

residence in the Jantz's homestead on Lueder's farm. Hilda was born here.

Arrangements were made for one of the buildings of that homestead and with the help of Fred Klatt and several teams of horses the log barn was moved to the new place in 1918. Some repairs and remodeling was necessary before they could settle in their new home. The gratitude and happiness can hardly be measured - to be able to move into, what is your very own home, no matter what it looked like at the time.

Three more children were born, Eric, Jan. 28, 1923, Paul, Dec. 17, 1925 and Erna, Sept. 14, 1928.

Their brother-in-law, Robert Renas sold W. Felske his farm, leaving the buildings vacant, but not for long. Activity was increasing to develop a congregation in the area. Felske's initial contribution was, making the empty house available for Worship Service, while later when the St. John's church was built, it was used as a residence for Lutheran Mission pastors.

There were happy years and sad years - 1938 was a sad year when nine year old Erna died of appendicitis on June 28, with her mother in the hospital at the time, ill with appendix herself. She was unable to attend the funeral, which Pastor H. Luetkehoelter officiated.



*1931 - Left to Right: Paul, Erna and Eric Felske*



*1948 - On the right is the Wm. Felske first home.*



The accumulation of the happy events outweighed the sad ones. Their Golden Wedding Anniversary - Feb. 13, 1962 - eventually came along and was celebrated with close friends and relatives in their home with Pastor Hanneman conducting the service. Their Sixtieth Anniversary was celebrated with an open house held at their son and daughter-in-law's home - Eric and Olga - again with Pastor Hanneman conducting a service, with hymns, for the family. One more anniversary was celebrated, the 64th, with friends and relatives in 1976. The open house was held at the home of their oldest son Gerhardt and his wife Martha with Pastor A. Querengesser directing the service.

Her health was failing since 1959, when it was discovered that she was a diabetic. In March, 1971, she suffered a stroke. For several years prior to the 64th celebration, she had been a patient in the Central Park Lodge, Edmonton. She passed away, Mar. 22, 1977 and was laid to rest in St. John's Church cemetery.



*Wm. Felske on binder*

Mr. Felske continued to live with Paul and Doris on the home place, communing with nature, mending fences and picking berries, usually humming his favourite hymns. One berry picking hike on the "back forty" looking for blueberries he wandered too far afield and ended up at Missals who brought him home.

From his 93rd year on, he was a patient at the Central Park Lodge nursing home where he received blood transfusions he needed to combat a rare blood disease. The 94th birthday was celebrated with his family at the home of their oldest daughter, Freida and her husband Gus.

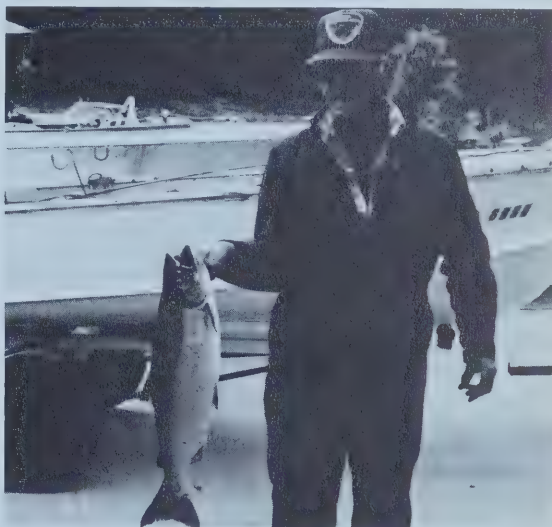
He passed away on August 30, 1981 a few days before his 95th birthday. Funeral services were conducted by Pastors R. Pudrycki and A. Querengesser. He was laid to rest in the cemetery of

St. John's Lutheran Church. The Church that Wilhelm and Christina had been active members in from its beginning and worked so diligently to establish.

## **FINGLER, ART and ROSE**

*by Debbie Marson*

Art's parents, William and Amelia (Schrader), married in Wolhynia, Ukraine and came to Burgheim district in rural Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in the year 1908, to farm. They had eleven children - five boys and six girls. One daughter died in infancy. Art lived on the farm until 1942 when he went overseas for World War II and returned to Canada on January 1, 1946. Every five years, Art still meets with his army buddies for a reunion. In 1947, Art moved to Alberta and started working in the oilfields. It was in the Leduc district where Art met Rose at a dance. They were married in 1951, settling in Edmonton.



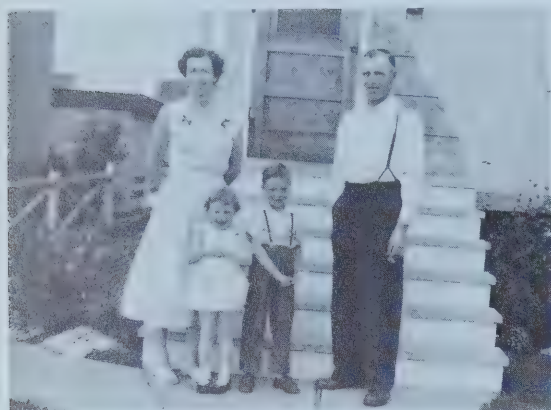
*Art with his big catch of the day.*

Rose also came from a large family of ten children - six boys and four girls. Two boys died in infancy. Rose's father, John Oswald, emigrated from Poland in 1892, and met Tillie Besler in Leduc district, where they were married and farmed until their retirement years.

Art's father, William, died at eighty one in 1968 and his mother, Amelia, at the ripe age of ninety three years in 1979. Rose's father, John, died at seventy nine in 1965 and her mother, Tillie at seventy eight in 1974.

When first married, Rose and Art attended Heimtal Lutheran Church where Rose was active in

the choir. They transferred to Trinity Lutheran in Edmonton, where Rose taught Sunday School. In 1960, they moved to the Ardrossan area where they owned and operated an Esso Service Station for thirteen years.



1958 - Rose, Debbie, Allan & Art Fingler. Taken when we lived in Allendale, Edmonton.

Around 1965, they joined St. John's Lutheran Church, Ardrossan, where Art served on council for twelve years and Rose is active in the Faithful Helpers Circle. Their two children, Alan and Debbie were actively involved in the Youth Group and as Sunday School Teachers. Alan is still one of the regular organists, and served as secretary for four years, as well as church treasurer for four years. He is currently attending University working towards a degree in criminology, and does volunteer work as a counsellor at the Edmonton Remand Centre and probation officer in Sherwood Park.

Debbie married Dale Marson in 1974 and has two children - Cody and Jarnie. Debbie attends Mt. Olivet Lutheran in Sherwood Park and is active in the Church's Social Justice Committee and women's bible studies. She also works part time as an insurance agent in Sherwood Park.

Art has been working for the County of Strathcona Recreation Department for the past eleven years and is an avid fisherman. Rose is kept busy with grandma and gardening duties.

## FRIEDRICH, LEOPOLD and EVA

*by Harry Friedrich*

Leo was born June 5, 1929 in Pushki, Poland, to Gustav and Dorotea Friedrich. He was the twelfth of thirteen children.

In 1940, the family was taken by the Germans and settled near Posen, in western Poland, also called

Wartheland. They escaped an approaching Russian front by horse and wagon to Malterhausen, near Juetterbog in 1945, only to be overtaken again. There they lived under Russian rule for one year, then emigrated to West Germany in February of 1946. In Lichtenberg, Braunschweig, Leo worked on a farm until he emigrated to Canada in July of 1951.



1984 - Back: Wilfred, George, Harry Seated: Eva, Leo Friedrich

Eva was born on April 13, 1931 to Max and Elfrieda Hoeckendorf in Karlsau. When she was two the family moved to Kolonie Alterhagen. In November, 1941 they moved again to Zeronice in Warthegau. Two years later they moved to a different part of Warthegau called Cisew.

In 1945 the family evacuated by horse and wagon to avoid the approaching Russian front and stopped in Sommerfeld Nieder Lausitz. After two weeks, the Russians drew closer so they left most of what they owned and fled by train to Gross Poesna by Leipzig. Again the Russians caught up with them and they lived under their rule until 1948. Then they crossed the border to West Germany where Eva worked in a bakery and as a maid. After two years she got a job in a new household which is where she got to know Leo. In 1953 she emigrated to Canada to be with Leo.

In Canada, Leo was sponsored by Wilhelm Hetman in Onoway where he worked on a farm for the summer. In the winter he worked in a bush camp and in April 1952, he went to work in Uranium City, in northern Saskatchewan. After returning, he worked in Edmonton and applied at Canada Immigration to have Eva join him (but the stipulation was they had to marry within 30 days). She arrived at the end of March in 1953.

At the wedding on April 11, 1953, Eva dropped her ring and Leo had to chase it as it rolled under the



church pews. They were wed in Faith Lutheran Church, where they were members, with Pastor Ernst Goss officiating.

In July of 1953 they purchased their first house. Then on October 18, 1954 they had their first of three sons, George. On September 14, 1956, their second son, Wilfred was born. Also in that year, Leo started a job in Sheritt Gordon, so they moved the family to Fort Saskatchewan. Their third son, Harry was born on October 9, 1959. In 1964, they joined the congregation at St. John's Lutheran Church in Ardrossan. Here Leo served on council for three years and Eva has been actively involved in the Ladies Aid.

All three children had their schooling in Fort Saskatchewan. George continued his education at the University of Alberta for one year. After working for another two years, he completed his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Divinity at Wilfrid Laurier University in Kitchener Waterloo. He spent one year of internship in Victoria at Grace Lutheran Church. On September 12, 1982, he was ordained at Hope Lutheran Church in Calgary and worked as an assistant pastor for one year. He then moved to Regina where he worked writing policy for the Saskatchewan government. Since September of 1984, he has been serving a congregation in High River, Alberta.

Wilfred spent four years at the University of Alberta to become a Medical Laboratory Technician. After graduating, he spent four years at the University of Alberta Hospital in that field. He then went to the University of Ottawa to take Law for three years, and then articled for one year in Toronto.

Harry worked in the construction industry immediately after high school and completed his apprenticeship as a cabinetmaker. Since the slow-down in the construction industry, he has been working at C-I-L Sulphur Products West in Fort Saskatchewan in the production and shipping of sulphuric acid.

All three boys were involved in the Youth Group. Wilfred spent some years working as editor on the church newspaper, The Road Runner and Harry spent three years on church council.

## **GRAMS, PAUL and HILDA**

*by Janet Grams*

In the late 20's and early 30's Wolhynia, Russia was the birthplace for two very special people, my parents. Hildegard Krueger, my mother, lived in Wolhynia with her family, until they moved to Poland in 1939. There they lived in Muhlenenthal, Wartegau, until the war caught up to them in 1945. It

was then they fled to West Germany via horse and wagon.

In 1953 Hilda and her family emigrated to Canada and settled in Jasper Place, Edmonton. It was here she met Paul in 1953.

Paul Grams, my father, too, was born in Wolhynia, Russia. In 1930 the three boys and their parents moved to East Prussia. They lived there until January of 1945 and then fled to West Germany by horse and wagon. During this, they were captured by the Russians and Paul's mother, Paul, and his two sisters lived under the Russians as prisoners in Pommerania.

In 1947 Poland took over Pommerania so in that year the family was shipped out to West Germany where they settled in Krs. Luneburg.

In 1951 Paul emigrated to Canada and settled in Ellerslie and attended Ellerslie Lutheran Church for one year. In 1952 Paul moved to Edmonton and settled in the Ritchie District. It was at this time Paul met Hilda Krueger and after one year and a half of courting, they were married on July 29, 1955 in Trinity Lutheran Church by Pastor F. Oswald.

Paul and Hilda lived one year in Edmonton and in 1957 they moved to the Douglas District and joined St. John's Lutheran Church.

Paul and Hilda's first son, Gordon Harvey, was born July 1, 1956 and he was baptised by Pastor F. Oswald in Trinity Lutheran and confirmed by Pastor P. Hanneman in St. John's. On July 3, 1982 Gordon married Karen Stenson and on February 1, 1984 they had their first son, Marc Karsten.

On January 12, 1959 Paul and Hilda's first daughter was born. Doreen Sharon was baptised and confirmed by Pastor Hanneman. Janet Loretta, their last daughter, made her arrival on February 24, 1965. Janet was baptised by Pastor Hanneman and confirmed by Pastor R. Pudrycki. All three children attended, taught, or substituted as teachers, for Sunday School and Vacation Bible School.

## **HAHN, EDWARD and MARIA**

*by Erna Greenly*

The Hahn family moved to the Fultonvale area in 1926. Edward Hahn was born April 15, 1878 near Graditz, (Grodziec) Poland (which was then a part of Russia) near the German border. Maria Hahn (nee Munk) was born March 25, 1880 in Schipltzki, Kalish, Poland and at the age of five years moved to Wolhynia, Russia. Edward and Maria were married in the year 1900 and lived in Wolhynia. To this union were born seven children; Gustav (deceased 1922), Ferdinand (still in Russia), Julius (deceased 1982), Adoline (deceased 1959), Herman, Lydia and Adolf

(deceased 1964).

When St. John's Lutheran Church at Ardrossan was first built, Edward and Maria donated the first organ. Both have now passed away, Edward in 1943 and Maria in 1957. Their eldest son, Gustav, died in Russia at the age of twenty one. Their second son, Ferdinand, remained in Russia.



1942 - Adolf and Adoline Munk, Lydia and Rudolf Hebner.

Their third son Julius was born January 23, 1905. On May 27, 1928 he married Emily Schabert, who had recently arrived in Canada from Poland. They moved to the Fultonvale area in 1933. Julius and Emily had six children. Their first daughter died at birth. Erna married Joe Greenly of Jarvie, Alberta. They now live in Coronation, Alberta and have five children and four grandchildren. Erhard married Carol Winkleman of Lac La Nonne, Alberta. They have two children and two grandchildren. They've lived all their married life in Edmonton, but have recently moved to a farm west of Wetaskiwin, Alberta. Arthur married Lorraine Oswald and one grandchild and live in Ponoka, Alberta. Adina married Allen Hudkins of Edmonton. They have four children and five grandchildren and live in Fort McMurray, Alberta. Elizabeth (Betty) married Terry Wilson of Stettler, Alberta. They live in Edmonton and have two children. Julius and Emily are both deceased. Emily lost her life in a tragic car accident on March 12, 1958 at the age of forty nine. A few years later Julius was remarried to Lillian Malterer of Edmonton and they retired to live in Westbank, B.C. Julius passed away May 13, 1982.

The fourth child of Edward and Maria Hahn was Adoline. She married Adolf Munk and lived in Vernon, B.C. They had six children and eighteen



1936 - Erna, Julius, Arthur and Erhard Hahn on a Sunday prior to leaving for church in their first car, a 1928 Chev.

grandchildren. Their eldest son, Herman, lives in Kelowna, B.C. Edwin married Roberta Rogers of Vernon, B.C. They have three children and live in Quesnel, B.C. Lillian married Nick Chobotar, they have two children and live in Salmon Arm, B.C. Bill married Noreen McManus of Millet, Alberta; they have four children and live in Coquitlam, B.C. Joan married John Sharpe, he is with the Canadian Armed Forces and they are now stationed in Belgium. They have three children. Gordon married Cecile Ricen of Edmonton, they have three children and live on an acreage near Sherwood Park, Alberta. Gordon and his family still attend services at Ardrossan. Adoline lost her life in a car accident on September 27, 1959.

The fifth child was Herman, born December 25, 1908. He married Helen Berndt of Uncas on June 22, 1944. They have four children and seven grandchildren. Their eldest daughter Eleanor, married Owen Bayne of Edmonton; they live in Hinton, Alberta and have three children. Laurence married Ruth McCarthy of Prince George, B.C. They have



1949 - Julius and Emily Hahn Children Standing: Arthur Center: Betty, Erhard Front: Adina, Erna.



three children and live at Assiniboia, Sask. Anita lives in Edmonton. Robert married Cynthia Mundell of Sherwood Park, Alberta. They have one child and live in Sherwood Park. Herman and Helen have the distinction of being the only Hahns left in the Fultonvale area.

Edward and Maria's sixth child, Lydia, married Rudolph Hebner and they live in Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. They have three children: Alfred of Surrey, B.C., Rita (Mrs. Ken Hagdorn) and Benny both of Portland, Oregon. There are seven grandchildren.

The youngest child was Adolf born March 20, 1913. He married Selma Berndt of the Uncas district on April 28, 1949. They had four children. Dennis married Joanne Stucke of Edmonton; they have one son and live in Cairo, Egypt. Laura lives in Regina, Saskatchewan. Harry married Betty Jo Eickerman of New Norway, Alberta; they have one son and live in Vegreville, Alberta. Carol married Jerome LaJeunesse of Sturgeon Falls, Ontario and they live in Calgary, Alberta. Adolf Hahn passed away August 25, 1964 and Selma lives in Edmonton.

Some statistics regarding St. John's Lutheran Church and pertaining to the Hahn family.

Baptisms:



*May 1953 - Emily and Julius Hahn 25 Anniversary*

- Adina Hahn - daughter of Julius - baptized 1937
- Dennis Hahn - son of Adolf - baptized 1950
- Laura Hahn - daughter of Adolf - baptized 1951

Confirmations:

- Erna Hahn - daughter of Julius - confirmed May 1945
- Erhard Hahn - son of Julius - confirmed May 1945

Marriages:

- Herman and Helen Hahn - married June 22, 1944
- Adolf and Selma Hahn - married April 28, 1949

For about a year, there was an active choir when Rev. and Mrs. Lehman were there. Adolf, Julius and Erna all sang in that. Adolf Hahn derived many hours of pleasure playing baritone in the Ardrossan Lutheran Church Band for a number of years.



*1928 - Hahn family - Standing: Adolf, Adoline Munk, Herman, Lydia Hebner Seated; Edward, Julius, Maria.*

My memories of very special times were Christmas Eve services, "Kristnacht". One usually practiced for weeks at a time learning a recitation for this special program. There was always a beautifully decorated tree and each child received a bag of candies, nuts and (1) Japanese orange before returning home. Such a treat! Another memory that remains vivid was when I was about six, riding in a horse drawn sleigh to a Christmas service, with warm bricks at our feet and covered with a feather tick. We were warm; for us it was an adventure, but it must have been cold for my Dad who was driving. The yearly festival celebrations in June and at Thanksgiving were a time for much fellowship and visiting, and of course, the ladies of the church always had such a delicious lunch.

Before the Zion Church was built at Fultonvale, services were held at people's homes. The church was first situated on the northwest corner of the Julius Hahn farm. It was later moved one mile north, closer to the highway. Julius Hahn was a member of the first executive of the Zion Church Board at Fultonvale. Two of Herman and Helen Hahn's children, Laurence and Anita were baptized there. The Ardrossan Church was nine miles away, so it was nice to have a place of worship nearer.

Over the years, both St. John's Lutheran Church at Ardrossan and Zion at Fultonvale played an active part in the lives of the Hahn family.

## **HAUPT, ADOLPH and MARTA**

*by Mrs. Erika Simon (as told by Marta Haupt)*

Adolph was born on March 20th, 1904 in the Ukraine and was one of seventeen children. His father had two wives - 12 children with the first and five with the second. All were happy and strong, according to my recollections. His father farmed and

was also a miller.

I was born on January 6th, 1907 in the Ukraine also, and grew up approximately two miles from the Haupts'. My family name was Wolfe; I was the oldest of two children (myself and a brother) from my father's first wife. She died at the age of 23. My father later remarried and my stepmother had two boys and a girl. I was baptized as an infant. Our family walked two miles to church every Sunday and I remember the various brass, string and vocal choirs. At the age of 15, I was confirmed.

Adolph and I were married on the 26th of December, 1925. Since we no longer had a pastor locally, we travelled approximately 60 miles to Heimtal Church in Nowograd-wolhynsk district to be married. It took us all day with horses. We arrived late at night. It was a large church and I was very impressed at how specially we were treated. (I believe that this was that pastor's last performance of marriage. We heard later that he was taken away to be put to death.) We left for home that same evening, but didn't travel all the way. When we finally did arrive home, my parents held a three-day "Hochzeit" for us. Many friends and relatives had been invited.

We lived for two years on the same land as my husband's parents, but in a separate house. Eventually, I inherited some land from my parents and we built a house and commenced farming and sawing lumber. Before marriage, being the oldest child, I had learned to work like a man. My skill and experience in plowing, harrowing, harnessing and handling horses, served me well in my marriage. We had a few cows and planted winter varieties of rye and wheat. All went well until the revolutionaries came in. Crops were literally burned and there was even some starvation. We had become refugees.



*Erwin, Dina, Marta, Adolph, Erna, Erika Haupt.*

In 1943 we were placed in the first of many "lagers", in Aurolzmunster, Austria. All the men were taken away to war. The older children were put to work and given schooling - boys and girls were separated - while the younger ones were allowed to remain home with their mothers. Adolph was returned to us after approximately three years. In the meantime, we had been moved from place to place. (The first camp we were placed in was run by the Russians; however, someone recognized the family name and helped us flee to a British camp, under the cover of darkness.) We emigrated to Canada from Kapfenberg, Austria.

We arrived in Quebec City in August 1950, after a 10-day journey on a ship called the S.S. Beaverbrae. From Quebec we travelled via rail to Edmonton. Adolph Minchau, my husband's uncle who had sponsored us, met us upon our arrival. He settled us on his own land which was approximately 6 miles south of where St. John's Lutheran Church is situated. We farmed there for four years, before purchasing our own land one mile east of Half Moon Lake and lived there until my husband's death in October of 1978.

In total, we had 12 children, though only 5 lived. In 1949, my oldest daughter Maria, her husband Peter and their son, emigrated to Australia. (Peter and Maria came to Canada in 1954, lived in the Ardrossan area - on the Platzke's farm - for approximately 10 years, but decided to return to Australia.)

After our arrival, Adina, our second oldest daughter went to work in Edmonton and Erwin and Erna started school. Erika was still too young for school. From here on, our life improved vastly; while we had next to nothing, we did not go hungry. The children were overjoyed with the fact that we could keep all the milk from the cow and didn't have to give any up, as we had to do in the refugee camps. The three younger children received their education at Douglas, Wye and Ardrossan schools (the Douglas School was situated on the land that Erwin Busenius and his family now own.)

Approximately one month after our arrival, St. John's Lutheran Church held a welcoming shower for us. We received gifts of money, honey and other food. While I was deeply touched by the generosity and the kindness of the people, I also felt humiliated and ashamed that through the course of history we, as a family, were somewhat like beggars. It was very difficult. "Ich konnte es nicht ubers Herz bringen" (I could not face it in my heart).

We settled quickly into regular worship in the congregation. The children went to Sunday School



and I remember how faithfully they used to memorize their recitations for the Christmas Eve programs. Erwin and Erna were confirmed in the German language and Erika later in English, by the late Pastor Hannemann.



1970 - Marta and Adolf Haupt

My oldest daughter, Maria and her husband Peter still reside in Australia and have five children - 1 boy and 4 girls. Adina resides in Edmonton and has four children - 2 girls and 2 boys. (Her husband, Stan, passed away in 1983 of cancer.) Erwin and his wife Elsie, live in Edmonton and have three children - 2 girls and 1 boy. Erna resides in Edmonton and has two boys. Erika and her husband Albert, live near Nisku and have two boys. In total, I have 16 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

I was blessed with a wonderful husband. In our 53 years of marriage, I cannot remember him criticizing me. He would always gladly go to worship and would never complain about having to take me to Ladies Aid. He was such a good and kind father; I find his memory hard to forget. While I now have a nice place to live - the Millwoods Manor in Edmonton - I miss the times of family and congregational fellowship. But . . . God has been good.

In closing, I would like to mention the names of some of the families (Seidlitzes, Swoneks, Buseniuses, the Otto Schiewe family) who, along with numerous relatives, gave us donations of food, chickens, pigs, a cow, etc. It's people like them whose support and friendship were extended to us upon our arrival in the Ardrossan area and whose friendship I will remember and cherish always.

## HEPPNER, Margaret and Mary

by Margaret and Mary Heppner

We, Margaret and Mary Heppner, twin daughters of Julius and Lydia Birkholz, were born on May 31,

1940. We grew up on the home farm in the Ardrossan area and attended school there. For the first several years we walked approximately one and one half miles with our sisters and brothers to the Garden school. Sometimes a good neighbor like Mrs. Tomlinson or Mr. Stroh would give us a ride. Later we were bused to the Wye school. We were both baptised and confirmed in St. John's Lutheran Church in Ardrossan.

In our childhood years we can vividly remember the tornado of 1944 that took the roof off the house, knocked out windows, cleaned the dishes out of the cupboards and also picked up some small granaries and carried them away. One granary was never found. We can remember the hot humid day and then around four o'clock the black rolling clouds. Our mother first carried Mary and baby Lil to the chicken barn and then she went back to rescue Margaret and Norman, who were sitting underneath the kitchen table hanging on to Dad's big army boot. While the house was being reconstructed we slept in the barn hayloft.

Later on during our mid-teens we were employed at the University Hospital. Margaret worked as a ward aid and Mary as a food supervisor.

## Margaret

On July 10, 1959 Margaret married Ernest Heppner at St. John's, Ardrossan. They were married by Pastor Hanneman. The reception was held at the home of her parents and this was one of the last country weddings. While they were eating supper someone came and told them their car was on fire. Apparently from all the horn blowing on the way home from picture taking, the ignition wires had caught fire so they could not go on their honeymoon until the car was fixed. After their marriage they



1984 - Caroline, Raymond, Crystal, Lisa, Ernest and Margaret Heppner

made their home in the Colchester district. They farmed together with Ernest's father until 1966. Since then they farmed together with Ernest's brother Lorenz and his wife Mary.

Ernest and Margaret have four children, Caroline, the eldest, graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy. At twelve years of age she started playing the organ for Sunday church services and is still presently one of the organists serving St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Ellerslie. Raymond graduated from Olds Agriculture College and is presently farming at home. Crystal graduated from N.A.I.T as a dental assistant and is presently employed in a Dental Office. She also assists with playing the piano for Sunday church services. Lisa is presently attending Ellerslie Junior high school. The whole family are active church members, Margaret is the Ladies Aid president and both Margaret and Ernest sing in the church choir.



1985 - Lorenz, Mary, Harold and Lorraine Hinz, David Heppner

#### *Mary*

On June 21, 1963 Mary married Lorenz Heppner at St. John's, Ardrossan. They were also married by Pastor P. Hanneman. After the marriage they also made their home in the Colchester district. Mary and Lorenz have two children, David graduated from high school and is presently farming at home. Lorraine graduated from the Alberta College as a medical dental secretary and is presently employed as an office secretary. Lorraine married Harold Hinz this past June who is presently articling to become a lawyer. Lorraine also assists with playing the piano for Sunday church services, teaches Sunday school and they are both active youth leaders, and choir members. All members of the family are active in church.

### **HIRSCH, CLARENCE and ELLY**

*by Rosanne Thede*

Clarence was born, January 12, 1927, in Galahad,

Alberta and was baptised on March 10, 1927 in the Evangelical Lutheran Church by Pastor A.W. Roeder. Clarence, the only son of Gustav and Margaret Hirsch, had two sisters Doris and Katherine.

During Clarence's preschool years, his family moved three times when they rented farm land in Galahad, Forestburg, and Heisler. As a young child he spent each fall with his grandparents Gottlieb and Emelia Hirsch in New Sarepta while his father worked on the threshing crew and his mother went along as the cook. These were exciting times for Clarence as there were so many uncles to babysit him. They encouraged him to participate in many mischievous activities that provided entertainment for all.

When Clarence was five years old one of many challenges was to learn to ride Flossy the saddle horse. She had a problem with her front feet and would stumble and fall, often throwing him to the ground. Clarence would then quickly jump back on, while Flossy was still down, as he was unable to get on when she was standing.

In 1934 the Hirsch family moved to Camrose where Clarence started attending the New Salum School. To get to school Flossy would transport him and his sister Doris, pulling a homemade sleigh during the winter and a buggy during the summer. Flossy continued to stumble and fall, often breaking the shafts on the vehicle.

It was at the New Salum School that Clarence became interested in the game of softball. He had such enthusiasm for this game that he organized the younger boys to play ball because they were not included with the older boys. Clarence's love for this sport has always remained with him.

In March 1938 Clarence's family moved to the Fultonvale district north of Looma where they continued to farm on land that his father had purchased. There he had to travel three and a half miles to the Fultonvale School. The school consisted of two one room buildings, with grades one to six in one building and grades seven to twelve in the other building. Many times he had to walk this long distance to school. If a horse was available then Clarence and his sister Doris would ride together or else they used a cutter in the winter or a two wheeled cart in the summer. During these years, winter activities included, playing hockey on Mitchell's Lake and in the summer playing softball, in the Fultonvale or Looma area.

Clarence's formal Christian education started in Camrose, where he took Sunday School lessons by correspondence under the supervision of his mother.





*1948 - Clarence and Elly Hirsch*

The years at Fultonvale he attended Zion Lutheran Church and was confirmed on May 2, 1943 by Pastor Weise. Church activities included pie and basket socials. Special events were the Zion Church festivals and visitations to other Lutheran Church festivals.

Throughout these years Clarence remained on the farm helping his Father. During the winter they would earn extra money by cutting firewood and hauling it to the city by sleigh and sell it for three to five dollars per cord. In the fall he would work for farmers in the Bretona area stooking and threshing grain. In the Spring of 1948, Clarence and his father started Dairy Farming.

In addition to playing ball and the many hours of hard work Clarence still found some time to court Elly Stucke.

Elly was the third child born to Heinrich and Natalie Stucke on December 15, 1926, in the school district of Wimbledon, north of Looma, Alberta. She was baptised at St. Paul Lutheran Church Ellerslie. Elly had one brother Heinz and two sisters Lydia and Lotty.

In 1928 Elly's parents moved to a farm in the Ardrossan area adjacent to the South side of Half Moon Lake. Living by the lake was exciting, with the older brother supervising the summer pastime of playing and swimming in the deep waters. Sometimes the children would watch a race between their Dad swimming and their Uncle Bernard rafting across the half mile wide lake.

When Elly started school she walked one mile on a bush trail to Douglas School. It was a one room school with grades from one to nine. Later when the family moved to another farm half a mile south, there was a regular road for her to walk on. Sometimes she would run home for lunch during the noon hour, just making it back in time to hear the teacher ring the school bell. Their rural mail box also

was situated at the school corner, where they would have to meet the mailman to send catalogue orders or receive COD parcels.

In wintertime Elly would often go along with her Dad and brother by sleigh to Hastings Lake for ice fishing; vying to see who could catch the most Perch.

Elly enjoyed her youth and the closeness of growing up with two sisters and a brother. This closeness has continued with their families through the years.



*1973 - The Hirsch Family. Standing: Kelvin, Clarence and Randall Seated: Rosanne and Elly*

On Sundays Elly attended church services at St. John's Ardrossan with the rest of her family, and her Grandpa (Opa Werner) who was living with them. She also attended Sunday School and later Saturday School. Elly was confirmed on March 25, 1940 by Pastor H. Luetkehoelter at St. John's Lutheran Church.

Elly preferred to help with the outdoor chores and fieldwork rather than the house work. She was needed outside even more during the years that her brother served in the army. In winter she would go into the bush with her Father and help cut mine props, which they hauled out and piled for a truck to take to the coal mines. The parts of the trees not suitable for mine props were hauled home for firewood.

When Elly was sixteen years old she moved to Edmonton and worked for the Great West Garment Company for five years. She looked forward to going home for special events, Christmas Eve church programs and school Christmas concerts. She always enjoyed the fresh baked bread and doughnuts her mother made for the family and the expected company.

The church festivals provided opportunities for

young people of different districts to meet. On one such occasion was how Clarence and Elly met. At first their dates were infrequent as Clarence's only way to travel the twelve miles between their homes was by bicycle or on horseback. Their dates became more frequent when Elly's brother Heinz (who had an old car) started dating Clarence's sister Doris. They enjoyed double dating and the improved form of transportation enabled them to participate in a greater variety of activities.

Clarence and Elly were married on August 26, 1948 at St. John's Lutheran Church Ardrossan by Paster P. Hanneman. They made their home on the farm in Fultonvale where they continued farming after Clarence's parents moved to the city.

That same summer a dairy barn and milk house was built. The milk was put in eight gallon cans and cooled. One of the inconveniences of the dairy business at the time, was that Clarence had to haul the milk one and a half miles everyday for the truck to pick it up. In later years the milk truck came to the yard to pick up the milk at the very early hour of 6:30 a.m.

There was much work to do on the farm. They cleared and broke land and Clarence kept his pitching arm in shape picking all the rocks. More land was rented to raise additional hay and grain to operate the dairy.

The old house was very cold in the winter with only a wood and coal cook stove and heater to keep it warm. Often in the mornings there would be ice on the drinking water pail. One of the most appreciated comforts of the home was when a oil burning heater was purchased and they were able to have regulated heat both day and night.



*1985 - The Hirsch Family - Kelvin and Mary Hirsch, Frank Thede and Rosanne holding Anna, Randall Hirsch holding Sarah and Lorraine holding Rachel Clarence and Elly Hirsch*

In April 1958 Clarence and Elly sold the farm and moved to Edmonton. They bought a home in the Avonmore area where they still reside.

In 1951 Clarence and Elly became members of St. John's Lutheran Church Ardrossan and took part in church activities. Clarence served on church council for a number of years. He also served on the building committee for the church, built in 1963 and assisted with the landscaping of the new church grounds. He was involved with two mission funding visitation programs; Project 67 and Strength for Mission in 1977. Elly joined the Ladies in 1958 and has been treasurer for this group since 1960. She also enjoyed teaching Sunday School for a number of years and being involved in the Christmas Eve Sunday School Programs. Even though Clarence and Elly have been in the city many years they have remained members of St. John's and continue to worship there.

Clarence and Elly had three children. Their son Randall and their daughter Rosanne were born while they were living on the farm and their third child Kelvin was born after they moved to Edmonton. Their children were all baptised, confirmed and married at St. John's Lutheran Church and were involved in the Sunday School and Youth Group there. Randy, Rosanne and Kelvin all attended the same Edmonton schools: Avonmore Elementary, Donnan Junior High, and Bonnie Doon High School.

Randall (Randy) was born on May 28, 1953 and married Lorraine Ickert on August 4, 1973. They have two children Rachel and Sarah. Randy graduated from the Waterloo Lutheran Seminary and was ordained in 1981. He has been serving as Pastor to two Lutheran churches St. Peter's Millet and Resurrection Calmar.

Rosanne was born on July 15, 1956 and married Frank Thede on August 21, 1976. They have one daughter Anna. Rosanne graduated with a B.Sc. in Nursing and has been employed at the Charles Camshell Hospital since. They presently reside in Edmonton.

Kelvin was born August 22, 1961 and married Mary Drinkwater on August 18, 1984. Kelvin and Mary met as students in university and both graduated with a degree in Forestry. Presently they reside in Winnipeg where Kelvin is employed by the Federal Government in Forestry.

Life in the city has been very active for Clarence and Elly. They both enjoy curling in the winter and Clarence has always remained active in sports especially in fastball and in coaching Little League Baseball.

Clarence has been employed by the City of Ed-



monton Power and Generation Plants since 1962. During this time he studied at NAIT and received his Millwright Certificate and then became a Power Plant Mechanic.

Elly continues to enjoy her home life especially the shopping and gardening. She has assisted in the caring of her mother, Natalie Stucke who lives in her own home since 1976 when Elly's dad, Henry Stucke passed away.

The Lord has blessed Clarence and Elly over the years. They have especially enjoyed their children and now their grandchildren. They have also enjoyed travelling. One of their most memorable trips was to the Holy Land in 1981. They look forward to more travelling after Clarence's retirement.

## **HIRSCH, GUSTAV (GUS) and MARGARET**

*by Elly Hirsch and Rosanne Thede*

Gus was the fifth child born to Gottlieb and Emelia (Henkelman) Hirsch on July 23, 1902, in the Bretona area (now Millwoods Edmonton). He had seven brothers and three sisters; Fred, Martha (Neuman), Emma (Schneider), Martin, Adolph, Albert, Jack, Sam, Arthur, Lydia (Schubert).

Gus's father was born in Martinowka (Kreis Zhitomir) Russia on August 11, 1870. His mother was born in Ludwikowka (Kreis Zhitomir) Russia on July 24, 1867.

His parents emigrated to Canada in May 1902, with a family of four children. Gus was born two months after their arrival. He was baptised in the Bruederfeld Moravian Church on August 24, 1902. The Hirsch family spent the first few months with Gus's grandparents Ludwig and Louisa Henkelman until they found a small shack in the Beaumont area to live in.

In 1903 they took up a homestead in the New Sarepta district. There they built a log shack with a sod roof. In the summertime Gus's father worked for farmers in the Colchester and Bruederfeld area. He would walk approximately twenty-five miles to be at work on Monday mornings and walk back again for the weekends to be with his family.

Sometimes a farmer would lend him a horse to ride home; if it could be spared. He brought home little money for his labor but instead received staple food and grain. In 1904 Gottlieb started breaking land with a borrowed one shear plow and a steer and then seeded the land with grain, that he had received as payment for labor.

In 1908 they built a one room log house that had a shingled roof and an attic with sleeping quarters. By 1914 they were able to build a much larger, three

room log house, with an upstairs to accommodate the growing family.

During this time the family began raising cattle and in exchange, cows were given to them for pasturing other farmers herds on their property. As Gus got older he helped his brothers round up the cows for milking from the surrounding miles of unfenced country. Everyday during the winter they had to take the cattle one mile to Joseph Lake to be watered due to the shortage of well water on their farm.

Over the years the greatest pride and joy of the Hirsch family was the many fine horses they raised.

Gus attended the New Sarepta Rural School whenever his parents could spare him from the many farm chores. He eventually completed grade four. Gus was confirmed in the New Sarepta Moravian Church where Gottlieb and Emelia with their family were active and devout church people.

In the following years Gus worked for neighboring farmers and continued to help on his parents farm until his marriage to Margaret Niederhaus.



*1948 - Gus with horse, Prince, moving a granary.*

Margaret was the third child, in a family of four children, born to George and Katherine (Brotzman) Niederhaus on September 4, 1908. Her birthplace was in Hucke, along the Volga River near Saratow, in the Canton of Balzer, Russia. Margaret's parents were also born in Hucke Russia; George on July 4, 1875 and Katherine on June 13, 1877. They were married in the Hucke Church on November 29, 1901, by Pastor Sterkle. Margaret was baptised in the same church. She had two brothers and one sister: John, Jacob, and Katherine, all born in Russia. On March 4, 1913 the Niederhaus family emigrated to Canada and settled on a farm close to other relatives in the New Sarepta district.

Margaret also attended the New Sarepta Rural School. She was confirmed in the New Sarepta Moravian Church on June 4, 1922 by Rev. W.

Scheel. She lived at home with her parents, until her marriage.

Gus and Margaret were married March 13, 1926, in the New Sarepta Moravian Church by Pastor H. Schultze. Shortly after Margaret's marriage the rest of her family moved to Lincoln Nebraska, U.S.A., to be near other members of the Niederhaus family, who had become established there.

Gus and Margaret began their married life for the first two years on a rented farm in Galahad. There a son, Clarence, was born, with the help of Gus's mother Emelia as the midwife.

Gus's sister Martha and her husband Julius Neuman also lived in Galahad, where they operated a blacksmith shop. Gus would help his brother-in-law in the shop, whenever he had some free time from farming. Julius and Martha had a car and often provided the transportation for the many miles home, to visit their parents and relatives in New Sarepta. These were often eventful trips. One time, Julius was surprised when he noticed a wheel rolling along-side the car. A second later he knew whose wheel it was, when the back end of their car hit the road.

During the threshing season Gus and his brothers would go along with the steam engine and threshing machine as spike (bundle) pitchers. Margaret would go along to cook for the threshing crew, leaving the baby with her mother-in-law.

After the lease was up on the first farm they rented another farm in the Forestburg area. While living there, a daughter Doris was born. Gus worked the fields with a two bottom plow pulled by six horses. The crop yield was fair but the price for grain was very poor.

In 1930 they moved to another rented farm near Heisler. Gus's brother Sam and his wife Dolly, who had just been married, came to live with them and they farmed together for the next two years. For winter transportation, they built a four door closed in cutter on steel runners. It was pulled by two horses and heated with a coal and wood stove.

In December 1932 they were saddened by the sudden deaths of Gus's father, Gottlieb, in New Sarepta, and Margaret's mother, Katherine, in Lincoln Nebraska.

In 1934 another move was made close to Camrose, where Gus rented three quarters of land for a period of four years. There they purchased their first car, a Model T Ford, which had to be cranked to get it started. When it wouldn't start, a horse was hitched to the car and pulled 'round and 'round the house, until it would start. On one of those starting events the Ford lost it's bumper, when it came too close to



*1984 - Four Generations. Standing: Clarence Hirsch  
Seated: Rosanne Thede holding Anna, Gustav Hirsch*

the corner of the house.

In March 1938 Gus purchased his own farm - two quarter sections of land in the Fultonvale district five miles north of Looma. They shipped their cattle and pony by train to Looma and moved all their other possessions with their wagon and hay rack. Their first task was to build a house and a barn. In later years Gus purchased two more quarter sections of land.

At the time, the municipal road to Highway 14 detoured around Rush Lake through a bush trail on the adjacent farms. Gus was instrumental in getting the county to approve the digging of deeper ditches to drain Rush Lake. He then worked with area farmers for many weeks to make the through-road. They piled corduroy (wood rails) into the bog and covered it with soil moved by horse drawn scrapers. Some years during a wet spring the road would still flood.

Margaret and Gus also opened their home on Sunday afternoons for Lutheran services before Zion Lutheran Church was built. They helped build and support the church.

In 1940 a third child Katherine was born. The two older children attended Fultonvale school on Highway 14, which was three and a half miles from their home. In May, 1943, Doris and Clarence were confirmed by Pastor Weise in the Zion Lutheran Church.

Along with the farming, which was progressing nicely, Gus raised some fine horses. Each winter he would hire out with his heavy team to work for the Artic Ice Company in Edmonton. His job was to go out on the North Saskatchewan River to pull out the large, cut blocks of ice, onto a wooden deck from where it would be loaded onto trucks.

In the years to follow they ventured into dairying,



shipping milk in eight gallon milk cans - that was before the bulk tanks - to the Silverwood Dairy in Edmonton. After their son got married and carried on with the farming, Gus and Margaret moved to Edmonton, where they had purchased a house in the King Edward Park area. Gus worked for many years for Edeco Oilfield Supply Company while Margaret worked part-time as a pastry cook in various places. After the Edeco Company dissolved Gus worked as a caretaker for the Department of Highways, until his retirement in 1967. In April of the same year, Margaret passed away and was laid to rest in Evergreen Memorial Garden. Gus was very lonely without Margaret's companionship.

Gus spent the last five years of his life in Garneau Hall - a senior citizen apartment. He passed away on August 9, 1984 and was laid to rest beside his beloved wife.



1958 - The Hirsch Family. Standing: Katherine, Clarence and Doris Seated: Margaret and Gustav

During all of his life, Gus's faith in the Lord never faltered. He loved to sing and memorized many Gospel hymns. One of his favorite hymns was "Life's Railway to Heaven".

Life is like a mountain railroad;  
With an engineer that's brave;  
We must make the run successful,  
From the cradle to the grave;  
Watch the curves, the fills, the tunnels;  
Never, never fail;  
Keep your hand upon the throttle,  
And your eye upon the rail.

Blessed Savior, Thou will guide us  
till we reach that blissful shore;  
Where the angels wait to join us  
In thy praise for evermore.

As you roll across the tressle,  
Spanning Jordan's swelling tide;  
You behold the Union depot  
into which your, train will glide,  
There you'll meet the superintendent,  
God the Father, God the Son,  
With the hearty, joyous plaudit,  
"Weary pilgrim, welcome home!"

Gus and Margaret had a family of three children.

Clarence was born on January 12, 1927. He married Elly Stucke on August 26, 1948. After leaving the farm they made their home in Edmonton. They had three children: Randall, Rosanne and Kelvin.

Doris was born on December 26, 1929. She married Heinz (Henry) Stucke on June 29, 1949. They had two children; Dennis and Joanne. Heinz passed away on July 3, 1972. Doris continues to reside in Edmonton.

Katherine was born on September 19, 1940. She married Herb Kroeker on September 12, 1964. They had two children; Leanne and Curtis. They presently make their home in Calgary.

## HIRSCH, MARY and KELVIN

by Kelvin Hirsch

The worshipping community at St. John's Lutheran Church, Ardrossan, has been home to me since my birth to Clarence and Elly Hirsch in Edmonton in 1961. I was baptized, confirmed and on August 18, 1984 married to Mary Drinkwater in this church. The experiences that have occurred at St. John's have been numerous and interesting and will be remembered for a lifetime.

As a small boy, and the youngest of three children, I was loaded into the car every Sunday with my brother, sister, grandmother and grandfather (Natalie and Henry Stucke), mother and father. Grandpa's knee was the usual spot for me to sit and eat Grandma's candies and watch Dad get upset while we waited in the car for Mom who was still in the house getting ready. Crunched into the car this group of seven (and sometimes it was larger) sped down the road, Indianapolis style, from South Edmonton towards Ardrossan because, if there was one thing that Dad did not like, it was being late. In the end, we were late more than once and a few times we even made contributions to our friendly neighbourhood RCMP officer but generally we arrived "just" in time.

At church during my childhood years a number of things confused me. For instance, Grandpa always sat in the second pew from the front on the south side



*1984 - Kelvin and Mary Hirsch*

of the church so he could listen intently (but many times he ended up sleeping), meanwhile Grandma and Mom would sit on the “ladies” side. Why didn’t everyone just sit together? Then things got really mixed-up when half of the service would be in English and half in German. Furthermore, after the sermon was finished all the kids were sent downstairs for Sunday School and so it was about five years before I knew how the service ended. Based on this I used to figure that if we could not get the whole program, then there was no sense going at all, but I knew that my idea would get vetoed very quickly.

Sunday School for me used to be fantastic but it probably wasn’t for my teachers. I now think that during the service I must have stored-up energy that I would then release downstairs in Sunday School. Thus I was a terror for my teachers by not only being loud but a trouble-maker. The only reason I never got into deeper trouble was that I enjoyed the work that we would do and so I would spend some time trying to learn it.

Confirmation occurred soon after my Sunday School days and it was an important experience for me because not only did I learn the Christian and Lutheran doctrines but I also had to miss basketball practices. Hence, I experienced for the first time, in a direct sense the conflict between the desire for worldly things and the need for spiritual growth. Confirmation classes were also important because I would ride out to the church from the city with Pastor O. Goos who tended to slow me down a little bit. Confirmation day for the most part was very interesting but the thing I recall best was George Friedrich asking me after the service what the sermon was about and I could not remember. Therefore to this day I have tried to concentrate on every sermon that is preached.



*1965 - Kelvin Hirsch*

Of all the experiences that have occurred during the passing years, two specific events stand out for me and will continue to do so. The first is the funeral of my Grandfather (Henry Stucke). Being a pallbearer I sat in the first pew and the memory of so many caring friends, especially other senior citizens, walking past the casket and crying will always be with me. Life for Grandpa was to care for others and to try to make their day special and not only did I feel the loss but I could now see how much he meant to all the people of the congregation.

The second experience is my marriage to Mary Drinkwater. Mary and I met in 1981 at the University of Alberta where we were both studying Forestry. We dated for three years during which time we struggled through many of the hassles that occur between people of different Christian denominations. However, on this day we, together with our friends and family members, crowded into this small church to praise God by sharing in one common service of word and sacrament. Mary and I both felt God’s love for us as we promised to dedicate our lives to each other and to God’s service.

The actual events of my childhood and teenage years such as hay rides, potluck suppers, doing meditations, and church picnic ball games may fade with time but the feelings of “those things” will never be lost. As Mary and I now move away from Edmonton and this congregation it will always be the community atmosphere of friendship and warmth that I will recall whenever there is mention of the St. John’s Ardrossan congregation.

**HIRSCH, RANDALL C. and LORRAINE**  
*by Randy Hirsch*

I was born, the first child of Clarence and Elly Hirsch, in Edmonton, on May 28, 1953. I became a



member of the St. John's Lutheran Church (Ardrossan) on August 16, 1953, through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. On April 30, 1967, I was confirmed and on August 4, 1973, I was married to Lorraine (Ickert). We have two daughters: Rachel Amy, born May 22, 1979 and Sarah Grace, born May 16, 1982. On April 26, 1981, I was ordained at the Leduc convention of the Western Canada Synod, L.C.A. Since July 15, 1981, I have been serving as pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Millet, Alberta and Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Calmar, Alberta.



*1967 - Standing: Randall Hirsch Seated: Clarence and Elly Hirsch*

Although my "official" membership at St. John's ended in July of 1981, I will always consider "Ardrossan" my home church. I cherish many significant memories. I would like to relate a few.

Pastor P. Hanneman was a very significant person in my life. He baptized me, confirmed me and would have helped Pastor Don Sjoberg conduct my wedding except that he had another wedding that day. I remember Pastor Hanneman best for his informality, his preaching, and his encouraging me to become a pastor.

St. John's will always have a special place next to my stomach. Having attended many pot-lucks, I would rate Ardrossan's as definitely among the best for both food and fellowship.

Sunday School at St. John's was a very important part of my growing up. I remember well our Church School picnics and Christmas programs. I believe it was the Christian programs which provided me with my debut as an "organist". Playing the organ, occasionally, on Sunday mornings was made easier by the fact that the people of the congregation were so supportive of my efforts even though they were far less than perfect.

Acceptance, is one of the things I most value having received from "Ardrossan". I remember some other youth and myself being present at annual meetings and having our opinions listened to and respected.



*1985 Hirsch Family: Lorraine, Randall holding Sarah with Rachel at his side.*

As my teenage years rolled in, the St. John's Youth Group became very important to me. Friendship and fun were highlights. I marvel now at how patient Hilda Grams and Olga Felske were with us. I appreciated the Bible studies Pastor E. Kublik had with us during Pastor Hanneman's leave of absence in Germany. There are many good memories. One of the best was our walk-a-thon from Fingler's gas station to Elk Island Park (16 miles away) with a camp out following. Prior to leaving to go to university in Waterloo Ontario, the Youth Group presented Lorraine and I with a bronze crucifix. That crucifix has always hung near my desk and is still in my pastor's study today. The friends I made during those years of Youth Group continue to hold a special place in my heart.

In August of 1973, Lorraine and I left for Waterloo, Ontario where I attended Wilfrid Laurier University and Waterloo Lutheran Seminary. My training included one year of work with a Mennonite congregation in London, Ontario and one year as an intern pastor in Langley, B.C. I graduated from Seminary in May 1981. Even though our homecomings to St. John's since 1973 have been few in number, we have always felt warmly welcomed.

I will always remain grateful to God for the guiding and inspiring influence He gave me through the ministry, people and pastors of St. John's Lutheran Church, Ardrossan.

"O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;  
His steadfast love endures forever!"

Psalms 118:1

## HOECKENDORF, ELFRIEDE

*by Harry Friedrich*

Elfriede Ernestine Pommerening was born at Alt Kugelwitz, Pommern Germany on February 12, 1904, second of four children and the only girl. Willy, the oldest died in 1977. Hugo, was drafted and never returned from the war. Herbert, the youngest still lives in Salzgitter, Germany.

In 1928, Elfriede was married to Max Hoekendorf in Grunenhagen and moved to Rugenwalde. After a year, they went to Karlsau and worked on a farm with the Pommerening family. While there in 1929, Elfriede gave birth to a boy, Gunter, who died after ten months. Later, on April 13, 1931, they had a girl, Eva. After moving to Kolonie Altenhagen, a boy, Alfred, was born to them on June 5, 1933.



19 - Elfriede Hoeckendorf

In early 1941, Max moved to Warthegau (Poland) and helped settle Germans out of Russia, during the war. The rest of the family followed in November. In 1944, Max was drafted to dig trenches to hold back the Russian front. Christmas of that year was the last time that the family saw him. In 1945, the family evacuated the area by horse and wagon, to avoid the approaching Russians. They stopped in Sommerfeld, Nieder Lausitz, but after 2 weeks the Russians drew closer to them. Leaving everything that they had, they fled by train to Gross Poesna by Leipzig. Again the Russians caught up with them and they lived under their rule until 1948. At this time they crossed the border into West Germany where Elfriede and Alfred worked in the fields at Lichtenberg, while Eva worked as a house maid.

In March of 1953, Eva came to Canada, followed in November by Elfriede and Alfred. They lived in Edmonton until 1957 and then moved to Fort Saskatchewan.

There they attended German services held in the

First United Church by Rev. Paul Hanneman. In 1964, they followed him out to Ardrossan after he stopped the services in Fort Saskatchewan.

Elfriede had been an active member of the church ever since. She was also a long time member of the St. John's Ladies Aid. She passed away on March 27, 1985.

## JAIT, EMIL and LEOKADIA

*by Wanda Swanek*

Emil Jait Sr. arrived from Poland in 1929 and settled in the Ardrossan area (Garden). Leokadia (Kluge), Emil's wife and three small children, Wanda, Erna and Emil Jr., arrived in January, 1930. As the log house was not quite finished on our place, we lived with our uncle and aunt Julius and Lydia Anders, just across the road, until the house was livable. Clarence was born on that farm. All three of us attended Garden school which was on our property, just east of our yard. Dad then bought a farm in the Douglas School area (near Cooking Lake). It was known as the Hick's farm at that time. There was only a log shack on the place, so they built a log house and other farm buildings. We all attended Douglas school except Margaret, who went to Douglas for grade one and two to Garden for grade three then moved to Edmonton and finished her education at several schools.



1940 - L-R: Erna, Wanda, Emil Sr. Clarence, Leokadia holding Margaret and Emil Jait Jr.



1935 - Emil Sr. and Emil Jr. Jait



Times were very tough those days and money was scarce. We children had to rough it a lot; because Mother was frequently quite sick while Dad worked at improving the farm. When Mother was in the hospital, we would stay at home alone. We spent some very lonely and apprehensive nights when the coyotes howled in the nearby bushes.

Mother passed away in September 1944, and Father passed away in July 1948. Wanda was married at that time. Erna, Emil, Clarence and Margaret continued living on the farm. Erna got married in 1948 and took Margaret with her to the city. Emil and Clarence continued living and working on the farm. Life was not easy for them. There was a lot of bush to be cleared and land to be broken. They milked a lot of cows and shipped cream. Later they went into beef cattle. Emil, Rena and family live on the home farm. Clarence lives across the road from the home farm.



*Approx. summer of 1935 L-R: Wanda, Clarence Emil and Erna Jait on Jait farm at Garden farm.*



*1933 - Log barn built by Emil Sr.*

Wanda married Daniel Swanek. They live in the Ellerslie area and have five boys and one girl; Dennis, Rod, Lorne, Reg, Bev, and Grant.

Clarence is single.

Margaret married Bert Ferko. They live in the South Edmonton area and have one daughter, Nora.

Erna married Ewald Ferko. They live in Edmonton. They have a boy and a girl, Laverne and Darryl.

Emil married Rena Widmann and they have a boy and a girl, Randy and Jo-Anne.

## **JAIT, EMIL JR. and RENA**

*by Rena Jait*

It was a sunny day in the spring of 1952 that my dad (Ewald Widmann) said good-bye to his family and started out on the only mode of travel he could afford, his bicycle, from Bashaw to Edmonton. He arrived in Edmonton some time later with a five pound "Rodgers Golden Syrup" can containing the down payment for a farm in Ardrossan. Soon after, friends from Bashaw, that owned a truck, also friends from Edmonton, Ed and Nattie Brudneski, helped us move into the Loggie Benson farm and set roots in this community and St. John's Lutheran Church. A few years later in 1955, I was confirmed here by Pastor P. Hanneman.

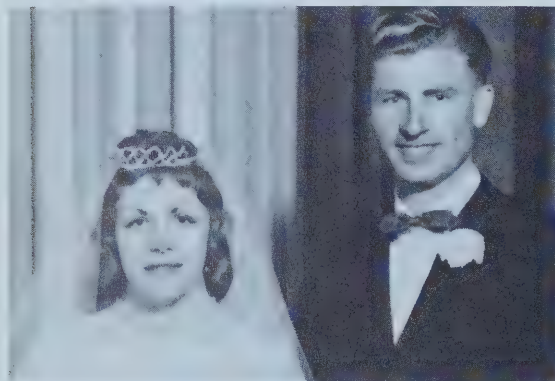
Emil, as an infant, came over with his mom and sisters from Poland in 1930. His dad, who had already established a home in the Garden area came in 1929. In spring of 1936 they relocated to Cooking Lake. Emil's parents had died and his sisters had left home when my family moved here. He was confirmed by Pastor G. Weise in 1942.

Emil, and his brother Clarence, who was born here, were farming not far from our place (kitty corner), so Emil and I got to know each other as neighbors. "The boys" used to help my dad. Emil would get eggs from us and I was always on hand to visit. In 1959 Emil and Clarence purchased a new car. It was a chev Impala, yellow with a white roof, which I admired very much. That's when Emil finally asked me for a date!

In May of 1960 I graduated from Salisbury High School. My graduation gift from Emil was a diamond ring. I decided that I just had to find out what city life was like, I also wanted to use my business and secretarial training before settling down to married life on the farm. I got a job with various office duties at Marshall Wells and stalled Emil till January 26, 1962, when we finally got married by Pastor Hanneman.

The first couple of years were very difficult. We both started married life in poor health as I was

recovering from hepatitis and Emil (without realizing it at the time) was coming down with the mumps and you can imagine what a lovely honeymoon I had spending a week in Vancouver with a very sick "new husband". Cattle prices were not good, the weather didn't seem to co-operate and I did not enjoy working on the farm that first summer. In December, 1962, I gave birth to our first child, Renatta. She was stillborn and we were shocked and disappointed. Three months later my dad passed away from cancer which was another blow I found hard to accept. I really felt God was punishing me and felt very depressed that second year too.



*Jan. 26, 1962 - Rena and Emil Jait*

However all my grief was finally forgotten when I gave birth to our son Randy on June 25, 1964; and felt God's blessing once more on November 4, 1965 when the Lord gave us back our little girl when Jo-Anne came on the scene. Both Randy and Jo-Anne were baptised by Pastor Hanneman and later both were confirmed by Pastor Pudrycki.

The years have gone by very quickly as we all worked together, the children and I, helping Emil to farm. At one time we milked a number of cows and shipped cream but now for many years we have maintained a beef herd of horned herefords. We also raise quarter horses and have a pair of Belgian geldings - Pride and Prancer. There always seems to be lots to do - in winter time lots of choring, in summertime field work, gardening and painting. I have put as much as 50 gallons of paint by hand (in one summer) on our corrals which are red and white. The barn, sheds etc. are red with black roofs and white trim. It looks nice but takes a lot of work which is after all really quite enjoyable - you know, the great outdoors!

We keep busy not only with our ranch but with many activities in our community which involves alot

of time and effort but the reward of personal satisfaction is worth it all. Emil and I are directors on the board of the Colchester Agriculture Society, and are also involved in the Garden Rural Electrification Association, Strathcona Fairboard, Cooking Lake Saddle Club, Salisbury Gymkana Association, Bremner 4-H Light Horse Club and Alberta Belgian Association to name a few.

I am also involved in various church activities which fulfills a need in my life. I have been a member of the choir for many years and have always enjoyed singing very much. I have taught Sunday School for many years. Sister Erna and I took over the Sunday School program from Pastor Hanneman as soon as we were confirmed. I also taught confirmation classes for Pastor Hanneman many times after church service Sunday mornings. I have been on council where my portfolio was Social Ministry, also Secretary. I am presently heading up the "typing pool" for Sunday and other bulletins.

In the summer of 1984 we were very pleased and proud to be judged as being one of Alberta's outstanding farm families. Families selected to receive this award are honoured by special invitation to be guests at Edmonton Northlands for a day, during Klondike Days. We toured the Coleseum, Agricom, Gold Mine and attended a luncheon with representatives of the Province of Alberta, City of Edmonton and Edmonton Northlands. We received several gifts including a gate sign with our ranch name. Our pictures with dignitaries were taken and published in the "Sherwood Park News" along with an interview. This award can be presented to a family only once in a lifetime. We feel it is quite an achievement.



*Randy & Jo-Anne Jait*

Several years ago, Birch Bay Ranch built a store which is open to campers, parents and guests in



summer. They decided that since we were “well known old timers” in this area that they would honor our family and Emil’s brother Clarence by naming it “Jait General Store.” Needless to say we feel slightly famous!

Many people think life on the farm or ranch must be dull and boring a lot; that is not so most of the time. Especially at calving time - things can be hectic and unpredictable. One time Emil noticed a cow that seemed to be having difficulties in trying to calve. He summoned help from me and the children to bring her home as she was with our main herd of cows about half a mile from home. Well, after chasing her (or trying) to get her away from the herd unsuccessfully, Emil finally saddled up one of our horses and with me and the children on foot, eventually got her home. She was very upset and confused and I’m sure in a lot of pain as well. Emil thought it best to let her rest while he unsaddled the horse. He felt it was too late to save the calf anymore anyway.

A few minutes later we resumed to herd her towards a holding pen. Jo-Anne happened to be the nearest to her and got chased up a nearby fence. Next thing I know Emil is yelling at me to run as she was now coming full tilt at me. I wasn’t lucky like Jo-Anne - there was no fence handy for me but what else could I do - I started to run as fast as I could. I was getting reasonably close to a fence breathing a prayer “please Lord somehow help me make it”. At about the same time I just had to “shoulder check” to see where that beast was - Oh! Oh! she was close! As I was doing this, I stumbled and fell, did a “lip stand” and a “nose dive”. (Jo-Annes terminology). Any second now that cow was going to get me. I thought



*Emil & Clarence continued living and working on the farm after their parents passed away.*

“thanks anyway Lord - you must be busy somewhere else today”. A few seconds later nothing had hap-

pened so I cautiously “shoulder checked” again and to my amazement saw the cow walking away from me. I scrambled up fast and got out of there.

Emil later told me that the cow had scared herself when I fell and had whirled around looking for another target. There was nothing could be done for the time being so we all went to the house to eat, as it was way past supper time. Afterwards Emil said he’d better go out alone at first and see if the cow had cooled off or was reasonable. About one half hour later he came back to the house jubilant. He had been able to get the cow into the holding pen, assisted her with a breach birth - both mother and calf were fine. Believe it or not! I apologized to the Lord for doubting, as I seem to do at times.

Emil appreciates my help most all the time - but I remember once when he was very angry with me. We were “doing up” calves. We catch them when small; apply dehorning paste, steer the males with rubber rings and inject them with vitamin A, D and E. Now, to catch them in the first place is tricky. First we feed the cows so they are busy eating and don’t mind us milling around. Next we sneak around wherever the calves are. I often go in front of them to distract them while Emil comes from behind, grabs them by the tail, then I quickly grab them around the neck. We have caught ourselves a calf!

One calf had been avoiding or outsmarting us and we just couldn’t catch the little sucker. He was getting to be a big, strong calf. Emil wondered, should we ever be able to catch it, would we be able to hang onto it for very long! Finally one day Emil unexpectedly grabbed this calf by the tail, it was taken by complete surprise, let out a loud beller, and started turning circles around Emil, trying to get away. Some of the cows immediately came tearing over, all upset. Somehow I just couldn’t grab the calf, it was just too quick for me. This merry-go-round was so funny and I was laughing so hard that the tears were streaming down my face. Finally after many rounds, I desperately made another lunge at him and got him. We “did him up” and after we let him go sat down to rest.

Emil was so angry with me that I dared not laugh anymore, however I couldn’t contain myself and he finally started laughing too! That would have made a good circus act. I’m sure my poor cowboy husband’s arms were several inches longer that day.

As soon as calving time is over we become very busy with many horse related activities. We enter horses in pleasure and gymkana classes at horse shows. Emil and Randy are team ropers. Emil also judges at some of the local shows. Our family also show-manages some local shows, as well as In-

ternational Wild Rose Circuit Quarter Horse shows. We enjoy trail riding alot. We participate in many parades with the Alberta Quarter Horse entry; we also organize and ride with the Cooking Lake Saddle Club and Bremner 4-H Light Horse Club parade entries. We have taken part in parades in Edmonton, Beaumont, Sherwood Park, Cooking Lake, Camrose and New Serepta. We have always placed well - receiving first place trophies for best mounted entry many times - we have also received T.V. coverage and interviews - mostly cable T.V. I usually carry the Alberta flag in Parades etc. on my black mare "Hickory Lou" (no markings) and enjoy it very much.

Safety is very important when you are around animals, especially horses. We have been fortunate in that none of our family has ever been badly hurt inspite of the many activities that we take part in although we have had a few close calls.

Several years ago we were entered in the Glamour Class with the Alberta Quarter Horse group in the Klondike parade. When you come to the end of the parade route - every entry disperses to wherever they came from. Our group was making its way back to Clark Stadium where our trailers were to unsaddle, load and head home. At times this is difficult as you have to stay with the traffic - that is stop when the light is red and go when the light is green and if, and when the motorists allow you to.

Emil and I somehow got dawdling and pretty soon I got around a float and through a green light and was trying to catch up to some riders ahead of me, all the while watching the traffic. I didn't realize that the traffic hadn't allowed Emil to get around that float and by the time he did, the light was red. He was riding our horse "Twisty" (short for Saska Twisty Bars" his real name). Somehow things were fine 'till the light turned green again, Twisty suddenly realized that there wasn't another horse in sight and he panicked. He took off at a full gallop on that pavement and he wasn't about to stop 'till he caught up to the rest of us. Well they came to 95th street, north of Jasper where the railroad and rapid transit tracks were, Emil saw the arm coming down and tried to hold Twisty back but no way - he even started bucking as they went around the arm and over the tracks just seconds ahead of the Rapid Transit zapping by! He said people stopped on the sidewalk and clapped for him and cheered him on with "come on cowboy - hang on, you can make it". He finally caught up to me and Hickory. Twisty slowed down with the traffic once more.

Meantime I had no idea what was going on 'till I heard the clatter behind me and looking back



*1985 - Emil Jr. with their Belgians*

wondered why Emil would do such a foolish and dangerous thing in letting Twisty gallop on city streets, in between traffic yet. Then my shakey husband told me about his narrow escape and bawled me out for leaving him behind and I was sure thankful that he and the horse were o.k. On this beautiful but sweltering hot day; we were very hot, tired but relieved and glad to get home.

It was too bad Emil didn't see my performance when a horse named "Bud" at Birch Bay Ranch bucked me off. He missed a good laugh that time.

It was a lovely spring Saturday morning. Having some time on hand before I needed to pick them up after classes I had taken Randy and Jo-Anne to confirmation class at church. I thought I would go to Birch Bay Ranch to practice for a "trail class" and prepare for a coming horse show.

A trail class is where you and your horse are marked on how you go through an obstacle course - such as: a "bridge" (similar to a low teeter totter) - you step on one end, the other end goes up, your horse must not panic but keep going; drag a tire on the end of a rope; noise maker - shake some cans in a sack; step through a row of tires; open a gate, back through and close it without letting go and many more.

Anyway a friend at Birch Bay told me it would be good practice to go through a bunch of tires piled up against a fence. She cautioned, "now be careful, if a tire should flip up and hit your horse on the knee he may get scared, but that rarely happens". So away I went on "Bud", a tall horse - sixteen hands high, not paying much attention to anything. This should be easy. Half way through the pile Bud stepped on a rim, yes, it flipped up and the next thing I knew I was scratching for leather as I tried to hang on with Bud in full buck across the arena. Now I didn't tell you



that we had had a heavy rain so it was very muddy everywhere except the very center of the riding arena where some sheep had messed up a bale of straw. That's exactly the direction Bud was heading. Well I just about made it to the straw and splat. There were several people standing around, I could see they were trying hard not to laugh as I got up and looked around - very embarrassed of course. I was pretty scared and shakey but was persuaded to try one more time - never let a horse get away with anything, you know.

It would just never happen twice in a row I was told. Well we got almost through the second time when it did happen again. This time I was a true cowgirl, in control and hung on to my horse until he stopped bucking.

I suddenly realized it was time to pick up Jo-Anne and Randy. There was no time to clean up, so being as careful as I could, I got into the car and hoped Pastor Pudrycki or the other young people wouldn't be outside when I got to church. Ah! For once I was lucky, nobody was out yet. Lucky again, Jo-Anne and Randy were the first ones out and we quickly sped away as they looked me over very curiously.

So now you can probably understand why we named our place the "Jay-Four Rainbow Ranch". The rainbow with its many colors simulates our lives, with its many ups, downs, good times and bad. One of my personal reasons for that name also is because in the Bible, in Genesis 9:12-17 - God tells us that he has placed the rainbow in the clouds as a sign of his eternal promise to be with us. The rainbow is a seal of his promise! Isn't that beautiful?

Emil and I hope to keep ranching at the "Jay-Four Rainbow Ranch" for many more years, the Lord willing. Randy is working at "Snags Welding and Repair Ltd." where he is learning a trade in heavy duty mechanics. He also loves to drive the big eighteen wheeler trucks for various trips and duties for his boss. He is engaged to Lisa Lohse and will be married on July 6, 1985.

Jo-Anne is working at Birch Bay Ranch (a non denominational Christian camp near our place) where she is managing the horsemanship program. As well, Jo-Anne is a certified riding instructor and enjoys working with children. She is also the 1984 and 1985 Rodeo Queen for the Cooking Lake Lions Club. In September (1985) she will start classes at N.A.I.T. After two years in training she hopes to pursue a career in Secretarial law.

We are all thankful for the many blessings the Good Lord bestows on us every day.

We have enjoyed a lot of travelling but have never found any place like home where our roots have

grown deep. I feel the saying - that you cannot enjoy the sunshine and rainbows in our lives without the storms and showers - holds true for us.

## **JAIT, FRED**

*by F. Jait*

In the year 1903 on the 28th of October, Frederick Jait was born in Swiesgervg, Poland. During his youth he stayed in Poland and obtained all of his education there. He spoke both the Polish and German languages fluently.

At the age of 22 he married Martha Bussler, a Polish girl, who was four years younger than he. Their marriage produced five children: Arnold, born July 4, 1926; Frederick Jr., January 29, 1930; Lucy, January 21, 1928. These three were born in Poland. Two more children: Henry, March 10, 1940, and William, November 17, 1942, were born in Montreal, Canada.

On June 13, 1929, Fred emigrated to Canada and on July 5, 1929 he made his way by train to Edmonton, Alberta. He had very little money and was a loner with no knowledge of the English language. Fortunately, in Ardrossan he found many German speaking people with whom he soon became friendly and was very happy that he was able to speak to them in their language. One such friend was Julius Anders and the other Mike Busenius. Fred stayed for quite a while with Julius Anders, helped out with various jobs around the farm.

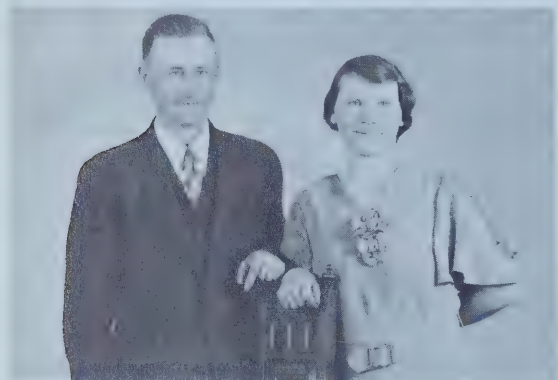
In May of 1930, Martha along with her three children, Arnold, Fred Jr., and Lucy joined her husband in Ardrossan, Alberta. It took many months before Martha was able to adjust to the wide, wild West.

It was here in Ardrossan that several people got together, and whilst they held their Sunday Church Services in the Garden School House, decided to build the Lutheran Evangelical Church. Young and old fellow farmers alike, cut down trees in the bush, carted the logs with great difficulty to a saw-mill, and slowly but surely built their Church. One event that Fred could not forget was the building of the steeple. Because there was no one among them who could build a steeple, they hired a carpenter (whose name Fred can't remember) who built a beautiful steeple. Even though money was scarce, the people of Ardrossan and whereabouts donated and pledged funds for this small lovely Church. The exact date of completion cannot be remembered, however it was somewhere between 1936 and 1937.

The first minister was a Rev. K. Freitag and then a Rev. Luekehoelter. We came into contact with Rev. Luekehoelter eighteen years later in the suburb of

Ville St. Laurent, Montreal. This is where the Reverend became the minister of a small congregation for many years.

Life was very difficult for Martha and Fred. With no way of transportation, the family got around by walking many miles and when the children started school, the two to three miles to school was taken for granted. The worst months of course, were the winter ones.



They worked on farms from Ardrossan to Ellerslie, finally they moved into a farm house in Ardrossan. It was a run down farm house which needed a lot of repairs. The land was purchased for a sum of \$800 payable over a 30 year period. However, as they were unable to make ends meet they welcomed the contact from Fred's sister, Molly, who for many years had lived in the U.S.A. They decided to move in the year 1938.

Molly owned a few bakeries in Brooklyn, N.Y. and she was willing to have Fred and his family stay at one of these bakeries, rent and food free. The hours were from 5 a.m. to after 11 p.m., and after one year they packed up and decided to go to Montreal. This was the worst year of the Depression.

They lived in a very cold and run-down house in the east end of Montreal. As there were no jobs available, Fred took any job he could get; washing dishes or sweeping the streets for a few dollars until finally he landed a permanent job at Dominion Rubber. From then on life became a little better for the family.

After leaving Dominion Rubber solely for health reasons, Fred worked for Consolidated Bathurst, a large corrugated box company. He started as a machine operator, and in his late fifties worked as an office clerk, after suffering through three heart attacks.

Fred managed to fulfill his dream when he purchased a bungalow in the Chomedey, Laval, area,

which he had to sell a few years after his retirement.

Fred and Martha now 81 and 77 years of age, have eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren. The children who are living in Ontario and Quebec, get together at least twice a year.

Fred and Martha live in a comfortable apartment in Chomedey, with their invalid son, William. Their eldest son, Arnold, and his wife Adele, are in constant contact with them. Their son, Fred Jr., lives close by.

Life has been hard for Fred and Martha, but they still find time to smile and talk quite often of their days out West with fond memories and sometimes with regret for leaving wonderful friends behind, wondering if and when they may see Ardrossan again.

Ed. Note - Fred Jait passed away in August 1985.

## **JANTZ, MICHAEL and AMELIA**

*by Lueders Family*

Grandma and Grandpa were born in Poland; Michael on September 29, 1852 in Radour and Amelia (Miller) on March 10, 1850 in Kertna. Being farm people with four children, they found conditions gradually getting worse, so like many other people, decided to emigrate to Canada with their two younger children; Karl (Charlie) and Anna. One child died in Poland.

The oldest daughter, Rose, had married Gottlieb Miller (no relation) and had left for Canada the year before with her husband and Uncle Michael Miller. They lived on what is now known as the Armstrong's place, on the corner of the Wye Road and Range Road 223.

When Grandpa and Grandma arrived in 1901, they stayed with Amelia's brother Michael, until they were able to move to their own place, which was just the next quarter section east. Grandpa had applied for homestead rights on that quarter at the first opportunity, which was approved later, on August 17, 1906.

In the meantime, Grandpa and Charlie, with the help of Grandma, built their log house and other buildings, since all this was hand work - later on even the threshing was done with a flail - things moved rather slowly.

In 1904 Charlie married Hulda Werner and moved in with his father-in-law, Michael Werner of Ellerslie. By 1916 Grandpa and Grandma went to live with Charlie, who by this time had a place of his own in Ellerslie. Grandpa died on March 23, 1923 - but had suffered a stroke five years earlier in 1918 - and was buried in the Ellerslie cemetery. Grandma



continued living with Charlie, until he sold his farm in 1925 and moved to Vancouver, B.C.; this is when she moved back to Ardrossan and stayed with her daughter Anna, who had married Theodore Lueders in 1904, near her homestead. She died on January 21, 1930 and is also buried in the Ellerslie cemetery, along side her husband.



*Amalia & Michael Jantz*

When Grandma and Grandpa were still on their homestead they would come over to our place every Sunday morning and read from the Bible and sing hymns from the books they had treasured so much and packed so carefully for their long trip across the ocean and the equally long train trip across Canada. Grandma was well known in the district for her midwifery abilities and in later years often babysat some of her former patients, who were also her grandchildren. She was an active member of the Lutheran people trying to establish a church and congregation in the district.

## KADATZ, DAVID and MARTHA

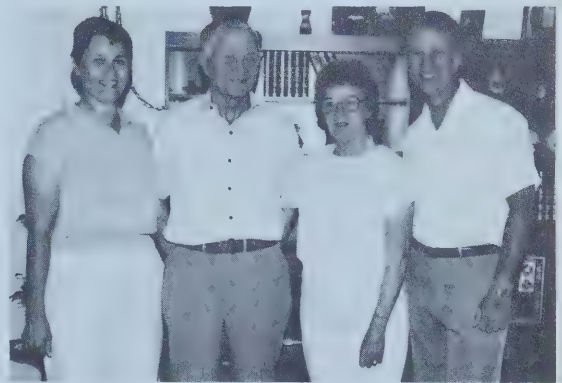
*by David Kadatz*

David was born in the Strathcona District on December 28, 1907, the third oldest son of the late Fred and Emilie Kadatz (Gertz). He grew up with five brothers and five sisters. He was baptized by Pastor Leob in St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Ellerslie and confirmed in the Ellerslie Evangelical church by Pastor J.S. Domm. His god-parents were Mr & Mrs. Julius Ganske.

He attended Sandy Lake School and when he turned 14 he went to work for Emil Paul and later for Henry Furhop. His wages every month went home to help his parents.

David was very musical and longed to own an instrument and take lessons, but times were hard and there were other things his parents thought were much more important. In his late teens, however, he managed to buy himself a violin. Due to an early childhood injury that left him with the first two fingers on his left hand stiff, he had to switch his violin around and learn to play it left-handed. With great determination he learned to play very well and played at most neighborhood parties and community functions, and really enjoyed it.

He worked hard at stooking acres of grain for relatives and surrounding farmers. He had a wood sawing and grain crushing outfit. He drove the milktruck for Sep. Savage and also ran Sep's. (Septimus) threshing machine and ran a steam-threshing outfit for Herman Miller in 1931. He always had plenty of work and sure knew the value of a dollar.



*Kadatz family: Audrey, David Jr., Martha, Dave*

On November 29, 1934, he married Martha Ott, youngest daughter of the late William and Emilie Ott (Henke). This was during the depression. Their first years were a real struggle. They longed to own a piece of land and to become independent and feel secure with a home of their own.

On October 31, 1935, during a terrible blizzard their daughter Audrey was born. She was baptized in the Ellerslie Evangelical church by Pastor W. Krotz on January 1, 1936. Her god-parents were Ted and Elsie Kadatz. She was confirmed in St. John's Lutheran church, Ardrossan by Pastor Hanneman. She attended Fultonvale, Colchester and Strathcona Composite High School. She took a business course

and worked in the office at Silverwoods Dairy for three years. In 1956, she married Gordon Baxter and on January 23, 1960, their daughter Heather was born. Four months later, Gordon was killed in a tragic hunting accident. In 1962 on September 1, she married Ronald Botho. They had two daughters, Jill and Cathy and three years later moved to Victoria, B.C. and still reside there.

In 1940, David and Martha purchased the S.W. Sec. 20, 51, 22, W4 in the Fultonvale District. In 1941 they went to Luesland, Saskatchewan to earn enough cash so they could fence their farm and clear some land. Upon their return they cleared a nice parcel of land. Mr. Adolph Minchau was kind enough to loan David his tractor, free of charge and Mr. T. Leuders of Ardrossan, lent his plow, with which David broke the land. In the spring of 1942 they bought a small house from George Portas and on April 29, 1943, their friend, Bob Hildebrand, moved them to their farm. They will always feel grateful to all those people who gave them a helping hand.

David and Martha picked roots and rocks from early morning till dark. To Martha it seemed the more rocks they picked the more there were the next day. David borrowed horses and machinery from the neighbors and he put their first crop in. In the fall of that year they threshed 800 bushels of the finest, cleanest oats, most of which was sold for seed. It was a very happy time for David and Martha. Things were going better, with a home of their own now, and also Martha's parents gave her five heifer calves, offspring of some of her Dad's best dairy herd. They had began to feel they had come a long way.

David rented the quarter to the east, so with two quarters of excellent pasture he took in about 100 head of stock to pasture. He got a 400 gallon water tank which they both attempted to keep full, pumping every spare minute by hand, as the district had no power at that time yet. David got the idea to build a water-pumping wheel, using dogs to run it. He built it, painted it, and set it up. From a neighbor he got two dogs, almost identical and trained them. The dogs loved it, and would always fight to get in. The water tank was always overflowing from then on. One day the dogs encountered a porcupine and were in pretty bad shape. One was so full of quills, David shot him on the spot. The other one had quills in his mouth and when David tried to pull them out the dog bit him. David gave him a kick, tied him between two trees and pulled them out. Because David kicked him he would not pump a drop of water for him. Martha or Audrey, could take a pail, call him, and he would wag his tail, hop in the wheel and pump. David decided to solve this problem. He

used to pick up boxes of bones from Regal Meat and Department Store for a treat for the dog so instead of giving him his treat when he arrived, David put some bones in his pocket and coaxed the dog to the wheel. In this way, the dog was finally won over and David had no more problems.



*Dave to work off the County tax.*



*Dave Kadatz in the Edmonton Loyal Regiment*

There was a small Lutheran Church in the area. David, Martha and Audrey attended and Pastor G. Weise persuaded them to join. They enjoyed the Sunday Worship and the Sunday School for Audrey. The church was later moved to a spot on the Joe Portas farm. Charlie Martin, Alfred Banick and David fixed it up inside and the members worshipped there until it was sold. The members decided to go to the Ardrossan church to save Pastor P. Hanneman travel time as he served both congregations.

David and Martha met Adalbert and Eleanore Missal at Ardrossan. Adalbert was organizing a church band and persuaded David to buy an in-



strument and join. He bought an E-flat Bass. He could not read notes, but Adalbert being a very patient and able teacher and David a very determined pupil, he soon mastered this life-long ambition of his. He will always remember the first earnest band practice at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Busenius. He heard that some of the members had played in the old country and he was really afraid to blow, but soon found during the practice, that even great masters make mistakes and he began to feel more at ease. David never missed a practice, rain or shine. Audrey joined the band and before the age of twelve could play the trumpet very well. The band became well-organized and well-known. They won first prize at the Search for Talent Show for Crippled Children, played every Sunday morning for the church service, played at the Church picnics, parades in Edmonton and the surrounding communities.

David soon became a very popular Bass player, due to his love of and interest in music. He was asked to join the Loyal Edmonton Regiment Band, under the direction of Bandmaster Brownie Sedgewick. He felt very privileged to play on the occasions of the Queen's visit and on many dignitary visits and Regimental functions. He also played in the Ellerslie, Moravian, Leduc, Phoenix-Westlock bands and with a Lutheran Church band in the city. David gives due credit to Adalbert Missal for his musical achievements, who probably had seen desire and potential from the start.



*Dave Kadatz and Rex forcibly pausing for the picture ready to pump a pail of water.*

On October 23, 1947, their son, Calvin, was born. He passed away on June 16, 1948 and is buried in the Ardrossan Cemetary.

In 1950, David and Martha sold their farm and moved to Edmonton. David went to work at the Strathcona Hotel where he worked the night-shift for 25 1/2 years. Martha continued to work at the Regal Department Store for over eight years.

On February 27, 1956, their son David was born. He was baptized on May 6, 1956 by Pastor Moerlemeyer in St. Paul's Lutheran church in Ellerslie. His god-parents were Alice and Reinhard Henschel. He was confirmed on November 16, 1969, in St. John's Lutheran Church, Ardrossan, by Pastor Hanneman. He attended Argyle Elementary, Ritchie Jr. High, Bonnie Doon High, and Harry Ainley High Schools. He joined the Edmonton City Police Force on November 3, 1978. He enjoys his work. He spends much time at being an "Uncle at Large" to a little boy, has his own Condominium and enjoys keeping fit, racket-ball and all sports on his days off. He has a keen interest in brass music and plays the clarinet. Looking back he always recalls his younger days at the Missal farm and the fun-times with the Missal boys.

David and Martha never gathered any great wealth, only many "good" memories. They are retired and have put all past hardships behind them.

They just look forward now to more good health and real happiness in the close relationship they have with their son David, daughter Audrey and son-in-law Ron and in watching their grandchildren grow up and mature.

## **KJOSNESS, KEN and MARIANN**

Ken Kjosness and Mariann, nee Kartz, were married in June 1976 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ellerslie. They have two children, Shannon born May 1978 and Shaun born April 1981. Both children were baptized at St. Paul's. For five years the Kjosness family resided in Edmonton and then in 1981 they moved to an acreage on the north side of Half Moon Lake. In 1982 they became affiliated with St. John's Ardrossan and both Shannon and Shaun attend Sunday School.

Ken, the youngest son of Palmer Kjosness and Alvina, nee Missel, was born in Edmonton in May 1953. He was baptized at the Edmonton Moravian Church. Ken attended various Edmonton schools and is presently employed by a manufacturing shop. In 1904 Grandfather Kjosness took a homestead in Holden district and was one of the people to instigate the construction of the first Holden Lutheran Church.



1976 - Mariann arriving at church for her Wedding.

Mariann, the youngest daughter of Clarence Kartz and Lotty, nee Stucke, was born in April 1957. She was raised on a farm in the Wimbelton district which is located south of Sherwood Park. Baptism and confirmation took place at St. Paul's Ellerslie where she was also an active member of the youth group and taught Sunday School. Colchester, Ellerslie and Salisbury Composite were the basis of her education. At the completion of a Respiratory Therapy course she worked at the University Hospital.

Mariann's grandparents, Heinrich and Natalie Stucke, nee Werner, had purchased their first farm on the south side of Half Moon Lake in 1928. Lotty, Mariann's mother was born there. The Stuckes moved to Edmonton in 1952 and when the Kjosness family 19 years later moved back to the Ardrossan area Grandma Stucke was very pleased to see the return of some of her family to the district they originally settled.



1985 - The Kjosness Family. Back: Ken and Shannon  
Front: Mariann and Shawn

## KLATT, FRANK and ALMA

by Frank Klatt

Memories come drifting back, when on a Sunday afternoon, we drive out in the country. The car automatically turns down familiar roads. We pass Gus Birkholz's place and here is Stucke's gate hid in the trees.

Henry and Natalie were our first and very close friends, who helped us a lot when we first moved out to the farm. We bought our first cow from them. We spent a lot of time visiting the Stucke Family. I consider that my second home.



1951 - Frank and Alma Klatt Wedding Clarence Busenius, Paul Felske, Frank, Alma (Missal) Dora Missal, Thelma Meyers, Marg Steffler, Carmi Missal (Front)

A bare quarter of a mile down the road, we come to Platzke's entrance, Leonard and Wanda who is Mrs. Stucke's sister. How many times we turned in their lane is hard to recall. There was not much for recreation then, so we would visit either place a lot.

Just a bit farther down the road was our place. I see a whole raft of events come flooding back, not having a car then - Dad, Mom and myself walking out to the road on Sunday morning to meet Stuckes to pick us up to go to church. A bright sunny day, either they were late or we were early. With silent agreement we strolled on; we were almost to the cross road before we heard the clomping of the horses hooves and the rattling of the wagon wheels on the hard packed road. I had my camera along and had time to take a picture of Dad and Mom on the crossroad. Mom liked to get to church a bit early to preview the hymn selections to familiarize herself with the old pedal organ. She played for the service for about eighteen years. After the service Mrs. Stucke would invite us and many others over for a whopping big meal, loving every minute of an afternoon of socializing.



Looking in the yard I notice the barn still standing - I can see Ed Wendt helping Dad hewing logs square that they hauled out of our bush, dovetailing the ends and positioning them to form the walls. The finished product was a neat little barn that kept our few animals snug in the cold weather. Not a mean feat, considering the low cost involved was for some nails, hardware and windows but a whole lot of hard labour.



*1934 - Rough start on farm*

Beyond the barn I can see the open field. That is where the ground, when it was cleared of brush, caught on fire, when the brush piles were burned. Stan hauled water from a slough, in the only way possible, in the farmer's cream cans and the cream truck. Success was sweet, when you could see the fire gradually getting smaller.

The week would be complete and the land look alive when Friday evening, Mom and I would see Dad come trudging up the road carrying his suitcase full of groceries. He would work at whatever needed to be done on Saturday. On Sunday we would walk him back the three and half miles to the bus pickup on Highway 14.

There in front of the house we see our first car. The car was second hand but it broadened our lives and activities when I was able to get about. About this time Adalbert Missal started a brass band. Every Tuesday was band practice and I was there. We had a great time in his little house. When we got more proficient, we played every Sunday for church service and on church picnics. I was very proud of this and never missed a practice or a Sunday service.

To the side of the house appears the clothes line with white baby clothes, some pink ones. I got to know Alma, Dalbert's sister through the band activities. All of a sudden the "Love Bug" bit me. We were married on June 6, 1951, in the Ellerslie

Lutheran Church by Pastor Gerhardt Becker, son of Pastor Heinrich Becker that married my Dad and Mom. After Linda was born (September 9, 1952, our only child) Alma came along to practice, got interested and started playing the Saxophone. I remember the float the band made for the Edmonton Exhibition Parade and before that, winning first at Fort Saskatchewan C.F.R.N. Radio Search for Talent, and the semi finals in Edmonton or the picnics on the island.

As we pass the lane the last parting shot of memory comes tumbling back. The lane crowded with traffic hauling away the spoils of an auction sale. We had decided to move to Edmonton, figured this would be easier on Dad and Mom and even for us as both Alma and I commuted to work in the city.

Coasting to a stop on 79 Ave. in front of our house we were barely settled down when Shane, Cindy and Trevor popped into the room followed by Linda and John (Podelec). When these urchins come to visit their Grandparents, your memories come back to the present in a hurry.



*Louise, Alma, Frank and Linda*

To finish my reminiscing - Dad passed away on August 21, 1954. Mother continued to live with us, helped us all she could. She raised Linda while we worked. She became ill; had two strokes, so she spent the last seven years of her life in the Good Samaritan Hospital. She passed away February 27, 1977.

My brother Stanley passed away on December 16, 1981. He had lived in Vancouver B.C. His last wish was to be buried with his parents. He felt he left home and did not help them when they needed him. He was cremated and his remains are buried between them in the St. John's cemetery.

Times have changed but my thoughts are back in Ardrossan many, many times. Sometimes I wish, we still had the old place. It was a simple life but a very

happy one. With all the many friends still living there it would be too many to write about here. But my thoughts are still with all of them. I loved them all and will always remember my days at Ardrossan.

## KLATT, FREDERICK and LOUISE

by Frank Klatt

Louise was born in Germany on November 30, 1888 to Karl and Johanna (Wilsdorf) Kuball. The family emigrated to the United States in 1897, with their six children; Louise, Christina, Bertha, Hertha, Martha and Frank and settled on a farm in Dresden, North Dakota.

The conditions were rough. In order to maintain a decent standard of living, the parents farmed out the older girls to people who needed help with household chores. Louise was introduced to this type of work at the age of 11 years, but with a difference - her mother would come and pick up her wages at the end of each month. She was placed with a Morris Family in Neche, North Dakota, who farmed eleven quarters of land, so there was need for a lot of hired help. Here is where she met her future husband. Louise had four years of schooling and that was in the winter months only.

Frederick (Fred) came to the U.S. in 1903 from Russia and found work at the Morris Farm. He was born in Poland, March 24, 1881, but his family had emigrated to the Zhitomer area in Wolhynia, from where he left for America.



*Louise and Friedrich Klatt.*

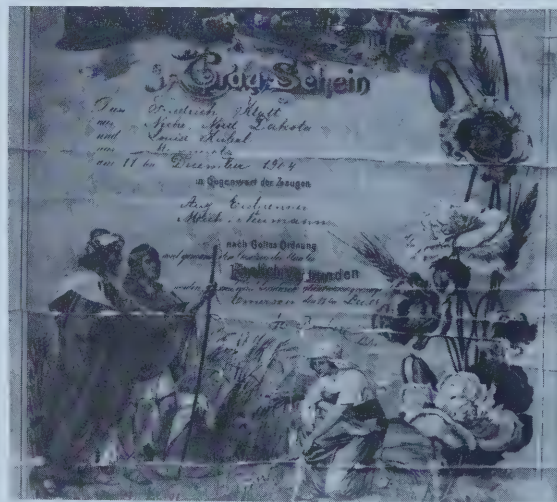
On December 11, 1904, Louise at the age of 16 and Fred at 23, journeyed across the U.S.-Canada border to Emerson, Manitoba, where they were married in a little Lutheran Church by Pastor Heinrich Becker. (On a recent trip east (1984) we found this church still in existence) The following year, in May, in the County of Kittson, Minnesota, they applied and

received their U.S. Citizenship, but in 1905 Fred and Louise moved to Edmonton.

Soon after they were settled, Fred got a job at W.H. Clark Lumber, on the west side of the south entrance of 109 Street Subway. (At that time there was no subway.) He would travel by bicycle from their first home at 9832 - 81 Ave; in winter he went on foot to the job, crossing over on the ice of the North Saskatchewan River; the Highlevel bridge was not in existence at the time. Ten years passed before he made an application for his Naturalization Certificate. Having a letter of commendation from W.H. Clark & Co. in his possession, he received his certificate on 13th of March 1916 and became a naturalized "British" subject.

Stanley, their first son, was born in 1917. Their only daughter, Florence, was born and died in 1919, during the ravaging of the Spanish flu. She was only seven months and twenty seven days old. Frank, the youngest, had his birth date on July 30, 1927.

Fred, with his trade as a cabinet maker "made things go". He managed to bring his mother, four brothers; Peter, Bill, Leopold and Otto and a nephew over from Europe.



Time went on. They decided to buy a dairy farm jointly with his brother and sister-in-law, Peter and Hulda. Fred, being easy going, lost the farm. Louise and Fred decided then that Fred should get back into the cabinet industry. They borrowed some money and bought a house in North Edmonton within hailing distance of Haywards Lumber, where he went to work in the Door and Sash section. At this home Louise was able to exercise her love for gardening; growing many prize flowers and vegetables, which she showed at the Edmonton Exhibition.





*Wedding Picture - Fred and Louise*

The "Hungry 30's" came along, from which no one escaped, with no jobs or work to be had, they decided to move out to a farm again. They bought a quarter section which is now owned by Henry Busenius in the Cooking Lake area and moved out there on April 24, 1934 with their two sons, Stanley and Frank. The old Douglas School was on the corner of the farm. This was ideal for Frank to attend school, so near to home. Stanley did not like farming, so he left to find work on his own, but managed to stay close to the district by driving a delivery truck for Cooking Lake store (where he met his wife Mary), then switching to a "Cream truck" for Burns Creamery and later for Northern Alberta Dairy Pool, picking up cream from all his old neighbors.



*Morris Farm - Fred Klatt (Second from Left)*

Starting out on this new venture, for Fred and Louise, during the depression years, was hard but somehow "things" got going, with a few cows, pigs, chickens and a team of nice horses, which Fred was very proud of. Fred resumed his work, at Haywards, staying at the North Edmonton Hotel during the week, but coming home on week ends, accumulating some 30 years work at the company.

## **KLATT, (1) FRIEDRICH and HULDA**

*by Gunda McConnell*

Friedrich Klatt was born January 24, 1879 in Lublin, Poland. He was one of the fourteen children of Michael and Theophilia Klatt.

He married Hulda Wendland and they had three children in Poland. Lydia passed away at the age of 2 months.

Father was in the Russian army for five years and when he was discharged, he came to Canada (between 1911 and 1912). Mother came in June of 1914 with a son, Gus, and a daughter, Martha who passed away July 5, 1914.



*1925 - Fred Klatt Home*



*1925 - Fred Klatt Family - Back: Albert, Mother, Gus, Father - Edmund Front: Evald, Anne, Henry, Gunda, Herbert Fred not born till 1926*

Not too much is known of either Mother's or Father's family. Father had one brother, Wilhelm, who came to Canada. He lived in Edmonton until 1926 and then moved to Spruce Grove, where he farmed for about 40 years. He then moved back to Edmonton, where he passed away at the age of 98 years.

Father had worked in the city and before Mother came, he rented a farm at Looma. When Mother arrived, she stayed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Glasere until she was able to get out to the farm. It was here that Edmund was born in 1915. He was later baptized at Ellerslie Lutheran Church.

In 1916 Father moved out to the Clover Bar area (now known as Ardrossan) to the Jantz farm where Albert was born in April. He was baptized at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Father's feet started to itch again and he moved back to Looma again on to J. McDonnell's farm, where Gunda was born in 1917. She was baptized at Ellerslie Lutheran Church.

In 1919 the family moved back to the Ardrossan area to a farm owned by Ludwig Werner. Our school district was Hillsdale and our post office, which was in the Wes Kreamer home, was Deer Mound.

On this place Evald, Herbert, Henry, Anne, and Fred Jr. were born. They were all baptized in Trinity Lutheran Church.

We lived in a one-room log house and Father added an extra room for a kitchen. He built a larger house which we moved into between 1921 and 1922. This was the house where Pastor W. Wahl had his first service between 1927 and 1928, since services were held in different homes each month.

By 1929 Mr. R. Renas' house was regularly used, with Pastor Freitag officiating. Father made a table, benches out of planks, and a lectern for the Bible. The congregation paid for the materials used.



*June 1978: Fred Klatt Sr. Family - Back: Fred Jr., Evald, Herbert, Henry, Gus Front: Gunda McConnell, Albert, Anne Baker*

Edmund and Albert took confirmation classes at Renas' house but Ed was confirmed in 1930 and Albert in 1931 in Trinity Lutheran Church in Strathcona. Gunda was confirmed in the Moravian Church in Strathcona in 1933. Fred Jr. was confirmed in St. John's Lutheran Church, Ardrossan, in 1943 by Pastor Wiese. Some of the family were not confirmed.

Mother took ill in 1929 and passed away January 23, 1930, leaving nine children; the oldest nineteen and the youngest three. Edmund passed away in November, 1939, and Father passed away in November, 1949.

At present Henry and Anne live in B.C., Albert, Gus, Evald, Fred, and Herbert live in Edmonton and Gunda lives near Ardrossan.

## **KLAUSE, FRIEDRICH and JOHANNA**

*by Gerry Klause*

My father, Friedrich Wilhelm Klause, was born in Poluisch Wonnoschemin, Poland on August 28, 1906. His parents attended the Evangelical Lutheran Church Gombin, a small farming community in Kreis Gostyin, where he was baptized and confirmed.

When the war broke out in 1939 he was drafted into the German Army. In the bitter cold winter of 1944-5 when Germany began to lose its occupied territories in Poland, he along with his wife and family fled to Nütteln, Schlesweg-Holzstein by horse and wagon as did many other Germans from that area. As they neared the end of their destination his wife became ill and passed away.

Realizing that there were few career opportunities, my father, together with my step-brother Edward, emigrated by ship to Canada in the fall of 1951. On December 15 after nine days on water they arrived at Halifax, Nova Scotia. They then boarded the train which took them West across the Prairies to the Sam Klause farm, a second cousin of my father. There in Onoway, Alberta, my father and Edward spent their first winter in Canada.

In the spring of 1952 my father sought employment with a construction contractor in Edmonton in order that he might repay his fare to Canada. It was in Edmonton that he met Johanna Pretzlaff who, with her mother Albertina Pretzlaff, had emigrated to Canada in April of 1952. They were from Poland as well. Having gone through similar hardships they too sought a new future for themselves in Canada. They attended numerous evening Bible Studies (Bibel Stunden) at St. John's Lutheran Church Edmonton along with other Germans who had fled from their motherland. They joined the congregation eventually and were married there in



the spring of 1954. Having worked very hard they were able to save up enough money to buy a quarter section of land, that they had always hoped they would once own since their arrival into Canada.

In 1955 my parents along with Grandma Pretzlaff (Albertina) moved from Edmonton to their farm in the Fultonvale area. There they attended the Zion Lutheran Church where I was baptized in October of 1956.



*Johanna, (Deceased) & Garry Klause*

Many winter months when the roads were drifted in and it was too cold to drive to Church, Grandmother read the German "Predicht Buch", to us which my father had brought with him from Poland. The Zion congregation amalgamated with the St. John's Lutheran Church, Ardrossan where I was confirmed in the fall of 1970 by Pastor P. Han-neman.

The family endured many hardships and happy moments on the farm until the passing of our father on November 17, 1977. It was then that I undertook the responsibility of the family farm.

In January of 1979 Grandma Pretzlaff who had lived with us on the farm, passed away at the ripe old age of 93. In the spring of 1983 my mother moved to Sherwood Park, where she presently resides.

While I grew up on the farm I attended Colchester Jr. High School and later graduated from Salisbury Composite High School at Sherwood Park in 1975. After high school I worked for several contractors in the Edmonton area to train as a carpenter. I continued to live on the family farm where my parents settled in 1955.

## **KLUGE, JULIUS**

*by Henry Kluge*

Mr. and Mrs. Julius Kluge immigrated from the town of Bych, Poland in May of 1948. Julius Kluge

was 54 years old and Ida Kluge was 56 in the year that they immigrated. They had farmed in Poland on a generation old farm all of their lives. They were deported from their land and country at the conclusion of the Second World War by the Polish government, as were all German speaking and cultured citizens. They lived in West Germany for two years, but there were no opportunities for employment at this time. The Kluges landed in Quebec City, then travelled directly to the Ardrossan area by train where Ida Kluge's sister and husband (Julius and Lydia Anders) had settled in 1928.



*Feb. 5, 1963 - Mr. & Mrs. Julius Kluge*

They lived with Mr. and Mrs. Anders on the same farm that Henry and Olga Kluge presently work and own. The Kluges worked as farm labourers in the community. They were able to pay their passage debts and save enough to purchase this same farm in 1955.

They became members of St. John's Lutheran Church shortly upon their arrival to the Ardrossan area. The Kluges were active church members in the Polish Lutheran Church and continued this tradition in Canada to the time of their deaths. Ida Kluge passed away in 1963 and Julius Kluge in 1966. They are both buried in the St. John's Cemetery.

In Poland, Mr. and Mrs. J. Kluge had 9 children, 4 of which died at childbirth, or early into their childhood. One son, Emile, was killed in the Second World War at the age of 24 and a daughter, Wanda, died at the age of 20. The three remaining children, Eugenie Popko, Julianna Mueske and Henry Kluge all emigrated to Canada. Eugenie arrived in 1950 and lives with her husband in Edmonton. They have two sons and one daughter, all married with families of their own; Julianna arrived in 1948 and lives with her husband in Edmonton. They have two sons with their own families. Henry arrived in 1955 and lives in

Ardrossan with his wife. They have two sons and two daughters, one daughter was recently married.

### **KOMANT, HENRY and EMMA**

*by Emil Komant, Adeline Klatt and Huldena Goltz*

Henry Komant was born in Zhitomer, Wolhynia on March 22, 1885. He was one of four children and lost his father at a young age. In 1911 he emigrated to Canada to join his mother and step father who had settled in Alberta. Very soon after his arrival he began working in a coal mine. He also worked with a construction crew, building the High Level Bridge in Edmonton.

In August, 1914 Henry's friend, Emma Busenius, from Wolhynia arrived in the Strathcona area. She was born on March 19, 1896 to a family of fifteen children. Emma kept busy helping relatives during harvest, while she got accustomed to this new country and language. On November 22, 1914, Emma married the prosperous bachelor, Henry Komant. After living in a small house in South Edmonton, they moved to an 80 acre farm in the district, which is now the Millwoods area of Edmonton. During their time there, they worked long hours clearing the land and were also blessed with five children.



*1946 - Komant Family - Standing: Reinhold, Emil, Albert, David, Lawrence, Leonard Front: Lydia, Alma, Adeline, Henry, Emma, Huldena, Selma, Hazel*

With a desire to farm more land, the Komants purchased a half section of land in Neilburg, Saskatchewan and moved there in 1922. In this area they developed close friendships with many neighbors, as relatives were left behind in Alberta. Their friendship there grew much closer as people helped each other through hard years of crop failure caused by drought. These years were the time of depression, when wheat was worth 25 cents per bushel and cattle were sold for one cent per pound.

After some serious consideration, Henry decided to move his family back to Alberta. During the year

1931 part of the family went to Ardrossan to build a log house on a quarter of land purchased two years previously. By now four more children were added to the family. In 1932 the entire family and all their possessions moved to the new location. Henry, along with some of the family, the cattle and machinery, went by freight train. Emma and the younger children travelled by passenger train. They arrived at the Ardrossan station to find that no one was there to meet them. Julius Birkholz came to her rescue and took them to his place, until brother, Mike Busenius, came and opened his home for the entire family to stay for a few days, until they settled into their own farm home. Her five children attended the Douglas school which was less than a mile away. They ran home for lunch at noon and back to school in time to play ball.

This last move required much hard work to make a living for the nine children family. Henry and the older boys chopped wood from the heavy bush on the farm and hauled it to Edmonton to be sold for fire wood. This was all done with horses. Emma spent some of her time making butter which was taken to Edmonton in exchange for groceries. She also kept the family well dressed in home-sewn dresses, coats and jackets and many of them made from other used clothing.

The family spent cold winter evenings spinning wool by hand, while Emma knit socks and mittens. This was all done by the light of small coal oil lamps but later, they had the luxury of mantel lamps. Many of those nights were enjoyed by singing old familiar German hymns.

Before spring a little log shed was filled with big blocks of ice from the lake and packed in saw dust. The ice was used to keep the cream and butter cool, as well as making home made ice cream for special company.

Again the keen relationship with neighbors and relatives were enjoyed by all. A helping hand was freely given to each other when needed. This was also the case when the Lutheran people of the district decided to build a church. Having no church nearby when living in Saskatchewan, Henry and his two older boys, Reinhold and Emil, were very eager to lend a helping hand during the construction of this building. Some of the children had the privilege of attending German Saturday school under the teaching of Rev. H. Luekehoelter. The family received spiritual teaching in the Sunday services and a close bond with friends which was developed at that time still exists today.

The Komant family had grown to six girls and six boys and by now some had gone out to earn their



own bread for a meager wage of \$8 a month for the girls and \$12 a month for the boys.

In 1948 the dreaded disease of cancer struck Henry Komant. As a result of cottage meetings previously held in the home, other Christians reciprocated with moral and other support at this time. Emma and Henry and other members of the family made a new commitment to Christ and honored this for the rest of their lives. Henry went to be with his Lord on July 24 of the same year.

Emma stayed on the farm with the four youngest children and remained there until 1953. She then moved to Edmonton into her own home and brought great joy to her children and grandchildren by baking cinnamon buns, knitting slippers - her favorite pastime - and loving everyone. Emma went to Kelowna, B.C. for Christmas of 1974 to spend time with her oldest son Reinhold and family. While there she had a heart attack and went to her heavenly home on February 12, 1975. A very large family was left to remember her.

Reinhold married Helen Busenius. Their family consisted of two boys. A number of years later Helen passed away. Reinhold later married Gertrude Ostman. Reinhold passed away December 20, 1975.

Lydia married Louis Henschell. They had one daughter, Jane. Louis passed away and Lydia is now married to Alex Evanoff.

Emil married Anne Klatt and still lives in the home district. They have a family of three girls and seven boys.

Alma married Vernon Grabia. She lives in Edmonton and they have three boys.

Adeline married Herb Klatt. They also live in Edmonton and have a family of three girls and two boys.

Huldena married Herb Goltz. They have spent most of their years on a farm near Leduc. They also have three girls and two boys.

Selma married Cecil Sprule. They have three children and live in Edmonton.

Albert married Ruby Walters. Their family consists of two girls and two boys. They have spent most of their time on an acreage near Edmonton.

David married Audrey McFarland. They live on the home farm, of the Komant family, at Ardrossan. Their family consists of two girls and three boys.

Lawrence married Esther Kublik. They live on the farm next to the home place. Their family consists of two girls and two boys.

Hazel married Herb Muth. They also reside in Edmonton and have a family of five boys and one girl.

Leonard married Marlene Bernicki, and have two

sons. They farmed near the home place at Ardrossan. In 1981 Leonard passed away suddenly while trying to rescue someone. Craig lives on his parents' farm with his wife Karen and son. Murray lives with his mother, Marlene, in Sherwood Park.

Henry and Emma Komant's descendants are now 49 grandchildren and 58 great grandchildren.

A family tradition has always been carried out to get together for a ball game with a weiner roast in May and a great Christmas dinner on Boxing Day every year.

## **KUHN, JOHN and MARGARET**

*by Margaret Kuhn*

John is the eldest son of Frank Kuhn and Magdelene Pertchy. He was born in Yugoslavia October 12, 1923. He has three brothers, Matthew and Anton who were also born in Yugoslavia, Edward was born in Canada. John's father emigrated to Canada in 1929 leaving the family behind, hoping to send for them in a years time. But due to the Depression it did not work out that way. Ten years went by before he was able to send for the family. It was April 1939 when they arrived here.



*1949 - John and Margaret Kuhn binding.*



*1948 - John Kuhn disking*

Matthew and Anton attended school at Good Hope. John did not go to school in this country. He immediately went to work on the farm helping his dad prepare the soil for seeding. Work was done with horses in those days. Many miles were covered walking behind harrows. In the winter months John would go and work in the lumber camps or else clear the brush along the road sides to earn extra money.

In 1945 he met me, Margaret Dusdale, at a skating party on a slough, as there were no indoor skating rinks in those days. A courtship resulted, and we were married October 25, 1947.

We rented a half section of land in the Good Hope district, also working it with horses. The first two years, crops were very poor due to drought. The following years things started to improve and we were able to buy an old tractor which made work a little easier. We also had livestock. We gradually built up a herd of milk cows, had some pigs, chickens, ducks and geese. Even if we were short of money, we always had food on the table.

We had no car the first three years of our married life. We would go visiting with a horse hitched to a stone boat, or else walk. A lot of enjoyable evenings were spent that way.

In 1950 we bought the farm on which we reside now four miles east of Partridge Hill. We lived in an old log house. Once the temperature dropped down to below zero, the water would freeze in the kitchen stove reservoir. Wood and coal were used for heating. One would stay up quite late at night to keep the fires going. We lived in the old house for ten years until we were able to build the new one.

In the winter after chores were done, John and I would go in the bush with a couple of horses, cut logs and skid them out. In spring he would haul them to a saw mill and had them cut into lumber, so we could put up some granaries, as there were no buildings on the place.

My parents were members of Bethany Lutheran Church in the Mansfield district, where I also got my German education. We went to church every Saturday; it was called Saturday School or SumstagSchole (Samstagschule). We learned to read and write from a book, called the "Fibel". I was a member of the Bethany Choir and Youth Group. After I was married, I belonged to the Ladies Aid group and stayed with the choir for some time. John, being of Catholic faith took confirmation instructions, and became a member of the Lutheran church. We were also members of the Good Hope community club until just recently.

We became members of St. John's Lutheran Church in 1977. We enjoy worshipping there, but



*March 10, 1970 - John, Ron, Margaret and Corey Kuhn Ron's confirmation*

regret not being able to take part in a lot of the activity that takes place.

We have one son, Ronald, born October 20, 1956. He likes hunting, and is also a guide; spent most of his teenage years riding in gymkanas. Ron also belonged to Cubs and Scouts. Ron married Dianne Ridgway of Edmonton January 26, 1985. He chose farming as his occupation.

Carey was born August 19, 1958. She married Wayne Torrance of Edmonton. Wayne is a salesman for the Coca Cola Company. Carey is a cashier at Capilano Safeway. They have two children; Melisa, eight and Colin, six. They enjoy bowling. She also rode in gymkana while she was at home.

All of us enjoy fishing and camping, but can't get away as often as we would like to.

## **LAISS, ERDMAN and ANNA**

*by Mary Busenius*

My father, Erdman, was born on July 19, 1889 in Radomsko, Poland. He is the youngest of six children, born to John and Eva Laiss (Kruger). His parents farmed in a German and Polish community.

Dad had about four years of schooling. He spoke six languages - German, Polish, Ukranian, Russian, Jewish and English. He served in the Russian Army during World War I and stayed on with the military for a few more years after the war was over. When he left the service, he returned home to the family farm.

A beautiful young woman by the name of Anna Miller had been chosen to be his bride. She was the second youngest of seven children, born to David and Christine Miller (Fester) of Radomsko, Poland. They were married in 1922 and lived with Erdman's parents where they farmed. They also had an orchard of many fruit trees. Here four children, Albert, Erna, Erwin and Nathalia (Dolly) were born. Erwin became





1929 - Anna and Erdman Laiss with children Albert, Nathalia, Erna

ill and passed away at two years of age.

They, too, like many others, had heard of the great opportunities and rich land that was available in Western Canada. Since Mom had three brothers living in the Millet district already, they decided it would be a good move to emigrate to Canada.

They began their journey on the ship SS. Kosciuszko which took almost two weeks to reach Canada. The voyage was very rough and many of the passengers got sick. They arrived in Halifax on June 27, 1930, then boarded a train and proceeded to Edmonton, arriving on July 3rd. From there they went to the Millet district and stayed with relatives until a place of their own was obtained.

Dad bought some land on which they farmed for four years. Because Dad did not understand the English language, there was some misunderstanding and being depression years led to Dad losing the land and his money.

They now had to move on. Through some friends from the Church they attended, they were told of some land that was available to rent in Onoway. The price was within reason. In April 1934, they loaded their belongings on the hayrack and headed towards Onoway. With them they now had additions to the family, three boys, Otto, Berthold (Bert) and William (Willie). The horses were hitched to the hayrack and driven by Dad, with the cows tied to the back. Albert, who was eleven years old, followed behind driving the buggy carrying the rest of the family. They finally arrived at a place which was on the edge of Onoway. I was born here 6 months later on October 2.

One year later we moved to a rented farm which was about four miles northwest of Onoway and about a mile from the Sturgeon River School. All of us kids attended this school.

In 1941, Dad was able to put a downpayment on a quarter section of land which was just two miles farther south of where we were living. When Dad and Mom had finished building the log house on the new place, we were on the move again. This time it was to be the final move. By this time, Albert was in the army overseas, Erna and Dolly were working in Edmonton. The four of us kids were excited about moving to the new place.

The quarter section was mostly bush and the Sturgeon River flowed through the north end of it. The river served as a water hole for the livestock and a real fun place for us kids. We spent most of our spare time at the river, fishing, swimming and skating. I, however, never went swimming. I just waded in the water because my brothers told me that there were snakes in it. So I never learned to swim - I was too busy looking out for snakes.

Cutting through the south end of the farm was a dirt road in poor condition, linking Onoway to Alberta Beach. The only time there was heavy traffic was at the end of July every year. This was when the Indians (with real headdress and all) made their pilgrimage in their covered wagons to the Shrine at Alberta Beach. By the time I left home, they were coming by trucks and cars, with the odd wagon.

Income from selling eggs, cream and pigs was not enough to feed and cloth the family. To supplement the farm income, most winters Dad would go to work for a lumber company in Whitecourt. When Dad started to receive old age pension, Mom and Dad were able to take life much easier.

Besides raising the family, Mom worked very hard along side Dad clearing the land, picking roots, making hay, stooking bundles, chopping wood and milking the cows. Then, she still had to do her



1950 - The Sturgeon River running through the Laiss farm. The bridge was built by the Laiss boys, making it much easier to snare the fish. Bill is totally exhausted.

laundry, - which was done on a washboard, - housework and the cooking. Oh, us kids did help also, as we each had our own chores to do.

A big garden was put in every year and the vegetables were canned, sauerkraut was made in a huge wooden barrel and potatoes were put in the dirt cellar. Wild berries and meat were canned and the fish were smoked.

Mom and Dad never had power, natural gas, running water nor a car. It sure makes me thankful for all of our modern conveniences. I sometimes wonder how they ever managed.

Mom and Dad were members of Trinity Lutheran Church in Onoway, where all of us children were confirmed. The church was the centre of our social life. It was not until the late sixties that Trinity closed its doors, due to declining membership. The rest of the congregation amalgamated with St. John's in Alberta Beach.

Mom passed away in July 1969, and was laid to rest in St. John's cemetery. This left Dad alone at the age of eighty years. He stayed on at the farm for a year, and then came to Ardrossan district to live with my brother, Willie, Lil and family, and with my family. We would alternate his stays monthly and he seemed to enjoy going from our place to Willie's. Clarence and our children were very good about having Dad live here and I appreciated that. While living in Ardrossan district, he attended St. John's. Although he couldn't hear very well, he still enjoyed going to church.

It was about 1976 when his health was failing, and he was admitted to the Sherwood Park Nursing Home where he lived until July 1979. After a month's illness, he passed away on August 20, 1979. He was laid to rest beside Mom. His funeral was officiated by Rev. R. Pudrycki.



*1957, Mary with Mother and Father Laiss*

Albert is married to Evelyn West. They live in Bittern Lake and have four children; Marie, Sharon, Blake and TerryAnne. Erna married Bill Melenka. She passed away in 1975. They had six children; Victor, Raymond, Cathy, Shirley, Judy and Cindy. Dolly is married to John Klause and lives in Onoway. Otto married Alison Brimsmead. They live in Edmonton and have two children; Jane and Barry. Bert married Agnes Letendre and live in Lindale. They have eight children; Debra, Sandra, Joanne, Ricky, Colin, Kevin, Mark and Bert John (B.J.). Willie is married to Lil Birkholz and they live in the Ardrossan district with their two children; Jim and Debbie. I married Clarence Busenius and have four children; Ken, Joan, Donna and Roy. We also live in the Ardrossan district.

My parents had a lot of faith in the Lord and it helped them through their struggle in a new land during the Depression times, raising a big family, and into their old age. I am grateful to my parents for giving me life, loving and caring for me and most important of all, teaching me to pray.

## **LAISS, WILLIAM and LIL**

*by William Laiss*

I was born in Portabella, Alberta, the youngest son of the late Erdman and Anna Laiss. I moved with my parents to the Onoway area and then to Sturgeon River where I attended school. Later we moved farther south-west to a homestead which still is the family farm. Hunting and fishing was abundant around there. Some of my fondest memories are of snare-fishing.



*May 10, 1962 the marriage of Bill Laiss and Lil Birkholz.*



While attending school, some of my part time jobs were working on the Ed Treichel farm for twenty-five dollars a month and later for Pete Frick, who was the Alberta Beach policeman. The latter job meant doing everything from selling wood and coal, delivering ice and keeping the beach free from weeds during the summer months. As Constable Frick carried out his duties, which sometimes included confiscating beer by the case or cases and putting them in his jeep, guess who relieved Constable Frick from the evidence?

As time went on, it was time to hold down a full time job. The first being a derrick man for Burggren Drilling and then for Willoughby Construction. Both these jobs took place throughout various parts of Alberta. During the summer months, while working for Willoughby Construction, we crushed gravel and operated different types of road equipment. During the winter I moved to Edson to bush camps hauling logs, lumber, ties and pulpwood.

In 1960 I started working for Twin Bridges Sand and Gravel. My first assignment was to erect a sand and rock wash plant to produce 400 to 600 tons per



*1976 - Bill, Superintendent for T.B.G., at Mildred Lake producing material for Syncrude Plant.*

hour, twenty-four hours a day. All this material was shipped in by rail. I worked for Twin Bridges Sand and Gravel for 18 years, mostly out of town. Some of the places where I worked were, Suncor and Syncrude at Fort McMurray, the Bennet Dam in B.C., Hay River, N.W.T., High Level, Jasper, Banff, Hanna and in Spy Hill, Saskatchewan. My position in this company was a superintendent, which enabled me to attend conventions and to look at equipment in Las Vegas, Chicago and Denver. In 1968 I completed the Construction Management Seminar course for superintendents, conducted by Harbridge House, Canada. In 1971-72 I attended N.A.I.T. where I

completed an ARA Short Course for Supervisory in Personnel Phase 1.

In 1962, I married Lil Birkholz of Ardrossan. We were married at St. John's Lutheran Church by Rev. P. Hanneman and the reception was held at the Club Embassy. We have two children, James, born in 1966 and Debbie in 1968. Before the children attended school, they and Lil would come and stay with me wherever possible.



*1984 - One of Bill's favorite hobbies*



*1983 - Debbie, James, Lil and Bill Laiss*

After spending most of my single and married life out of town, I decided to look for a job which would remain in and around the Edmonton area. In 1979 I was employed by Apex Gravel, also as a superintendent. Although this company does all their work in and around Edmonton, in 1980 they sent me to Chicago and Benton Harbour to look at equipment

and their factories. I also attended the Con-Expo '81 which is the International Construction Equipment Show held at the Astro Dome in Houston, Texas.

My family and I attend the St. John's Lutheran Church where I am presently on church council. James and Debbie are both organists, attend the Youth Band and also belong to the Youth Group. Lil is a member of the choir and also is in charge of distributing the church newsletter, the Roadrunner.

## **LUEDERS, FRED and VERA**

*by Gloria Kreamer*

*Fred relates.* In a log house situated on a farm half mile south of the Wye Road on Range Road 222, on August 18, 1920, I, Frederick William Lueders was born to Anna (Jantz) and Theodore Lueders. I was the seventh of nine children.

As I was only four years old (1924) when the new home was built next to the log house, I recall little of the hard work it took to construct a two story, four bedroom home, complete with livingroom, dining room and kitchen. The hole they were digging with a fresno for the basement, however, made me very curious. Looking over the edge, I slipped and fell in. No doubt, after taking such a fall, I was crying and so one of the workers, perhaps Otto Gunther, who was working for my Dad at the time, made me a rooster from the clay being excavated. Soon the incident was forgotten and I walked away with a new toy in hand.



*Fred and Vera Lueders  
Wedding Nov. 25, 1943*

A short three years later, at the age of seven, I found myself attending grade one at Garden School, corner of Wye and Range Road 221. My teachers, who taught from 30 to 40 students, were Miss Palmfrey, Miss Best, Miss McLean and Miss Parker.

Miss McLean was the first to teach the class what discipline was all about and only strapped one student in order for her to gain the respect she rightfully deserved. Miss Parker was also a strict teacher and surprisingly, these two disciplinarians were the favorites with most of the students.

The school term started on September 1 and finished on June 30 the following year. Grades one through eight were taught and occasionally the teacher would offer grade nine for any students interested. If a higher education was sought, the student would move to Edmonton with friends or relatives for the school term.

As the school only had a wood heater, it often was very cold in the winter unless you were fortunate enough to be seated close to it. Often the teacher would have the class stand at the side of their desks and do exercises to get warm. As is the case with most kids, they find a second use for most every invention made. The heater was also used to thaw out frozen ink bottles! The teacher would remove the cork and place the ink bottle on the stove. How mundane a ritual this became, so naturally an alternative to boredom is chaos! If the cork was secretly placed back on the bottle while left to warm, the cork would soon pop and everyone would have a good laugh. Well, the cork popped, the ink hit the ceiling and the teacher and the walls, etc., etc.. Now everyone was happy and eager to get back to book work, except the teacher, of course.

Coal oil lamps furnished the lighting for the ever popular Christmas concerts which had everyone in the classroom busy for days preparing costumes made of colored paper or whatever could be found at home. Many of the dads would help prepare the props for the plays and build the stage. The students would make decorations with remnants of rags, spruce boughs, paper or whatever else they could find. Parents and friends would come by sleigh or cutters to watch the plays, dialogues and choruses. Then everyone would sing Christmas songs and share in the ever present congeniality of the community.

Sledding, skating, snowball throwing, tunnelling through drifts and fox and goose were some of the activities that kept the children busy during recess and lunch breaks. Our games were homemade from empty thread spools and string, buttons, empty boxes and leftovers from something once usable. Our best toy was our imagination.

Transportation to and from school was by foot or if we were fortunate enough, rode horseback. Lunch was carried to school in a lard pail and sandwiches made with homemade jam was a popular item in them. Cakes or cookies sometimes accompanied



them but fresh fruit was a rarity.

I finished school at the age of 14 after acquiring a grade eight education. As at the end of every school year, the last day was reserved for a picnic in which the entire community participated. I remember Mr. Chipchase, in particular, did a great deal of preparing and arranging for the picnics. He would get donated trinkets from the stores in Edmonton as prizes for the sack races, foot races, cricket games and wrestling matches. This was the day everyone put on their best effort, not only to accomplish a prize, but to prove their skills to their peers.

Church was an integral part of everyone's lives at that time and although there was no church built, it did not hinder anyone from having a service. Garden School was used for our Lutheran congregation and it was at this location that I was confirmed in the Lutheran faith by Pastor Luetkehoelter in 1936.



*Gloria Lueders - 6 years  
Lyle Lueders - 4 years*

Having my schooling completed, I worked on the farm with my Dad and brother. Many acres of raw land had been broken with a walking plow and still more waiting. This was no easy task for man or beast as long hours were spent cutting, piling, and burning the trees, not to mention sawing and splitting firewood. Then plowing, picking roots and rocks, tilling and harrowing had to be done before the fertile soil could be planted.

We had several fields of hay with the excess being sold. When I was old enough to handle a team of horses, I hauled the loads to the Kent Mines, Alberta Flour and Feed, mink ranches or local farmers. As for the grains, mainly oats and barley were seeded using a drill (seeder) pulled by horses. With the seeding completed came a great deal of praying that it would rain at the right time, not hail when the crop

was standing high, that the bugs would find something else to eat and that the snow wouldn't come too soon. Very few threshing machines were available and each farmer waited his turn for the crews to come by. Three of the crews that came to the Lueders farm were operated by the Scott brothers, Gib, Tom, Bob and Adam, another was run by Mr. Jackman and the third by Mr. Beshell. Although many long hours were spent at harvesting, they were also some of the best times. Men competed at who would stack the highest load, who could bring the most loads, who could cross a soft spot with a load, and who could fork it off the fastest. Then at meal time came the stories. The high hills on one of our quarters was a real challenge either going up or down. In fact, they were so high Emil Wendlendt said he could hear the angels washing dishes.

Although this decade was called the "hungry thirties" my family never suffered for food. With the cattle, poultry and grain we were pretty well self sufficient. Mother and the girls would milk the cows, feed pigs, ducks, geese and chickens as well as spinning wool, knitting mitts, socks and sweaters and maintaining the household with canned vegetables from the garden not to mention making cured or salt brined meats.

House parties, box socials, baseball and dances were some of the activities everyone in the community enjoyed. Dances were held at the Garden School and the Wye Hall, the latter's where, in 1940, I met Vera Mentuk from Salisbury, Alberta.

*Vera relates.* In a small village called Wallichya, Poland, on June 12, 1925, I, Vera Mentuk, was born to Martha (Worona) and Fred Mentuk. I was the youngest of six children. Mary and Andrew are still living in Russia while Bill lives in Edmonton. Another boy died at 17 months and a girl at birth. In Poland, Dad was considered a big farmer having ten acres of grain and sharing in another five acres with his father. Included on the farm was an orchard of walnut, chestnut, apple, pear and cheery trees. Bee hives were housed within the orchard supplying us with honey. My brother, Andrew, relates that during World War II the orchards were destroyed. About 12 hens were kept for eggs, as these were a scarce commodity, they could be traded for other essential items. Andrew, using a switch on my bottom soon taught me that trading eggs for candy was a definite no no.

Hearing of the vast amount of homestead land in Canada, my father emigrated alone in 1928. He purchased 160 acres for \$10. at Wandering River, Alberta then sent for Mom and I in 1931. Gathering only our most precious and needed possessions we

boarded a train to France. Here we transferred to a double decker French ship called the "Cooner" and were ready to meet our new land. Seven days on the sea had most of the passengers sick, the children being the exception. The crew treated us with parties and being as there were very few adults at meals, we kids tried the table wine, fortunately, our berths were close by.

I was six years old when we docked at Montreal and continued our journey to Edmonton and Lac La Biche by train. From Lac La Biche we travelled a distance of 50 miles with a borrowed horse and buggy along a trail littered with rocks, stumps and fallen trees to Wandering River. Here we found our sod roof, dirt floor, log house. A log barn stood a short distance away housing the cattle Dad owned. Having no horses, my father worked for other homesteaders in payment, for help in clearing his own land. By 1933, 40 acres were cleared. When he found the opportunity to rent land complete with horses and machinery in the East Edmonton area from Mr. Cook, he gave up the homestead.

There were no schools at Wandering River and my first encounter with the 3Rs was at East Edmonton School in 1934 at age of nine. It was a very modern stucco school having two classrooms with washrooms downstairs and served grades one to twelve. Speaking only Ukrainian was not only challenging for myself, but for my teacher Miss Pitela. One such occasion was when she asked the class for a word starting with the "sh" sound. I could have said "shot" but I didn't. She immediately explained that we don't use that word in class. My brother, Bill, arrived in 1937 giving me the opportunity to practice, as well as teach my English. By 1939 I had finished grade five, but could no longer attend school as my mother was bedridden with arthritis. We had now moved to the Salisbury district about one mile north of what now is the Sherwood Park overpass. My duties at age thirteen were to take care of the household chores, as well as help in the potato and vegetable fields that father was renting from Mr. Reed. As well as field farming, we raised fox and mink which were sold in Edmonton.

Even with the many hours of their own work, neighbors had time for each other. House parties in particular with the traditional Ukrainian food and songs were among the favorites and shared with everyone in the community. In my mid teens, my brother, Bill, took me with him to dances at the Wye Hall, where I met Fred Lueders.

*Fred and Vera relate.* After a three year courtship, we were married on November 25, 1943, at the Salisbury United Church with Rev. Scott officiating.

We then developed fellowship by becoming members in the St. John's Lutheran congregation south of the Garden Store.

We lived with Mom and Dad Lueders for a year and a half, but decided a change was necessary and started working at Henry's Dairy in January 1945 tending 62 cows and milking 44 of them. We moved back to Dad Lueders' in 1946 to a small house of our own. We carried on mixed farming with Dad, increasing the cattle herd and updating machinery. Modernization developed very quickly in the 1950's and 1960's starting with having electricity in 1955 and telephone in 1959. We were now renting the farm from Dad and by December 1961, we had hot and cold running water in the house, then natural gas in 1968. From 1956 to 1960 Fred worked at Premier Steel while still farming.



*Brenda Lueders - 2 years*

How well we remember warming chicks on the oven door; feeding piglets with nipple and bottle; easing a new born calf from it's mother and hearing it's first breath; cursing the turkeys for not going in during a pouring rain; pulling the milk trucks up the muddy hill; having a full pail of milk kicked over; receiving a bouquet of dandelions; tasting wild strawberries or the first meal of new potatoes; watching a hail storm destroy our beautiful crops; hearing the clucking hen calling her brood; feeling the shower of rain we so desperately needed and seeing the rainbow taking the bow; healing a hurt with a kiss; smelling the first cut hay or the straw dust in the air at harvest time; shaking cream in a jar and watching it turn to butter; seeing a dirty face with a smile on it; having snow drifts higher than we could see over; hearing the first honks of Canada Geese; playing baseball at the Church picnics; seeing the first green sprouts of a grain field; hearing our kids giggle, seeing them graduate and having to give them



away in marriage; listening to our elders reminisce and feeling the hurt of their loss; seeing a Hawaiian sunset; feeling the Pacific waters in Mexico; and maybe giving thanks, just once or maybe many times for any or all of the above.

Fred was a Council member of the St. John's Lutheran Church from 1976-1982. Vera was a choir member for a number of years and in 1981 joined the Ladies Aid. She will probably be more remembered for her ever popular cabbage rolls than any other endeavors or accomplishments. (Just ask Wes).

To date we have in our family:

Gloria Mary

- born April 6, 1946 - Edmonton, Alberta

- baptized at Trinity Lutheran Church, Edmonton, Alberta

- confirmed May 4, 1960, at St. John's Lutheran Church, Ardrossan

- married Wesley Ralph Kreamer (son of Henry and Irene Kreamer) on April 23, 1966.

Their children:

- Michelle Amari - born October 11, 1967, Edmonton, Alberta

- Denise Averl - born January 20, 1971, Edmonton, Alberta

- Cami Lynn - born May 5, 1973, Edmonton, Alberta

Lyle Theodore

- born May 3, 1948 - Edmonton, Alberta

- baptized at St. John's Lutheran Church, Ardrossan, Alberta

- confirmed in May, at St. John's Lutheran Church, Ardrossan

- married Audrey Jane Gillies (daughter of William and Jean Gillies) on December 10, 1966

Their children:

- Kimberley Donne - born April 29, 1967, Edmonton, Alberta

- Bradley William - born December 19, 1973, Edmonton, Alberta

- Bryce Theodore - born September 24, 1980, Edmonton, Alberta

Brenda Lee

- born July 19, 1961 - Edmonton, Alberta

- baptized at St. John's Lutheran Church, Ardrossan, Alberta

- confirmed April, 1975, at St. John's Lutheran Church, Ardrossan

- married Bren Taylor Alton (son of Robin and Jeannie Alton) on July 10, 1982.

Their child:

- Meagan Robin - born September 19, 1984 - Edmonton, Alberta

WE HAVE ONLY JUST BEGUN!

Time is not measured by the years that you live  
But by the deeds that you do and the joy that you give

And from birthday to birthday the good Lord above

Bestows on His children the Gift of His Love

Asking us only to share it with others

By treating all people not as strangers but brothers -

And each day as it comes brings a chance to each one

To live to the fullest, leaving nothing undone

That would brighten the life or lighten the load

Of some wary traveler lost on Life's Road -

So what does it matter how long we may live

If as long as we live we unselfishly give.

HELEN STEINER RICE

## LUEDERS, THEODOR and ANNA

*by Lueders Family*

Theodor Lueders, third in line of four children, was born in Heidelberg, Germany on August 14, 1879. There were also two brothers, Otto and Fredrick, and a sister, Mathilde. The children were very young when both parents died, leaving them to be raised by their Aunt and Uncle Speckert. Living in a large city was an advantage, as Theodor was able to complete his choice of trade, as a machinist. After



1928 - Otto Frederich Theodore Lueders Jr.

finishing his schooling, he had a yearning to see the world; working as a fireman on cargo vessels, enabled him to do this. Spending several years of traveling the seas, docking in ports of Mexico, North and South America, he finally ended his wandering in Edmonton in 1903 after stop overs in Chicago, Illinois and Helena, Montana.

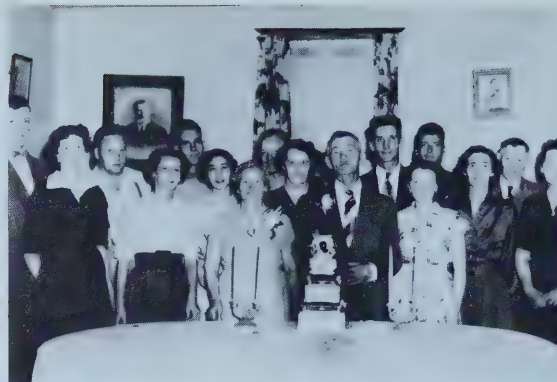
While staying at the Commercial Hotel, South Edmonton, he met Jim Gratrix from the Clover Bar district some 15 miles east of Edmonton. (This area was known as Clover Bar for several decades even after Ardrossan station on the Grand trunk Railway - now Canadian National - was established in 1910.)

Jim gave such a vivid description of his area, that Theodor became interested and accepted an invitation to see for himself. He liked what he saw, especially the bush and the lakes teeming with wild life. Moving in with Jim and being an avid hunter, he had no trouble supplying meat for the table, supplemented with bannocks - the usual fare for bread - fried in a pan, similar to a pancake.

It was not too long when he bought a quarter section of land of his own, 4 miles due south of Ardrossan. In 1904, in the Ellerslie Lutheran Church, Theodor married Anna Jantz - who at the age of 14 years had emigrated to Canada from Poland in 1901 with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Jantz and her brother Karl (Charlie). - establishing a home of their own, building a log house, clearing and breaking land, raising their food and only going to Edmonton for essentials and mail.



*Sept. 4, 1904: Theodore & Anna Lueders Wedding*



*1954 - Back L-R: Neil & Ann Marler, Walter & Bertha Horton, Gibson & Helen Scott, Gus & Rose Kneller, Fred & Vera Lueders, Glen & Elsie Reynolds, Wilhelm & Louise Busenius Centre Front: Anna and Theodore Lueders, 50th Anniversary.*

The country they loved so much also had its drawbacks. The trails, kept to high ground as much as possible around lakes and muskegs, thus making the trip to town half again as far as the 15 miles of surveyed roads. Whether in winter by sleighs or in summer by wagons, each presented its own problems. The meadows always provided abundant hay, which was hauled to town for sale to stables. Wood, another commodity, wasn't any easier to acquire. It also would end up in town on the same route, and so it was on Sundays.

The roads were a strong influence to have a church closer to home, especially when the children were beginning to start confirmation classes. Sunday was a real chore, up at five in the morning to get the chores done and the kids ready, with all of four hours to get to church on time. Strong of faith, with the help of a few neighbors, Theodor eventually had pastors from Trinity Lutheran Church, South Edmonton, hold church services in his home and in other homes.

Mother, besides raising a family, also helped with the field work, raised chickens and geese whose feathers ended up in pillows or quilts. As the children grew older, making the work for mother easier, but also harder, for Dad and Mother had nine children, seven girls and two boys. They were; Mathilda (deceased 1905), Louise (Mrs. Wilhelm Busenius), Rose (Mrs. Gus Kneller), Theodore (Deceased 1937), Elsie (Mrs. Glen Reynolds), Helen (Mrs. Gibson Scott), Fred (Vera Mentuk), Bertha (Mrs. Walter Horton) and Anna (Mrs. Neil Marler). Now that the family was growing up, Dad decided he needed more land. More land meant more cattle and horses so a bigger barn was built. In 1924 a house was added, built in the style of the day, a full two story. Fred



now makes it his home.

Mother and Dad always had an interest in community affairs. As more people moved into the district and developed homes, Dad saw the need for a school, worked for, and got a grant from the Provincial Government. The school, Glen Garden, was built in 1912; in later years, we had Sunday services as well as confirmation classes there. A few years later in 1916, he was elected as councillor for Division five in the Strathcona Municipality and again in 1917, '22, '23 and from 1929 to 1940, as Reeve in 1939 and 1940. Most roads in the division, under his supervision, were built with the help of farmers being able to work off their taxes. Roads were not easy to build at the time, trees were cut and hauled, placed side by side as corduroy to make a firm base in low soft spots and muskegs, to be covered with dirt hauled by teams of horses pulling slips or fresnos. With a gang of men, there was always a fair share of joking and laughter built into the roads, you may not see it or the corduroy, but it is there just the same.



*The Theodore Lueders home and the Essex 1927.*

In memory of these pioneer councillors, some boulevards and crescents were named in their honor in Sherwood Park. A crescent bears the Lueder's name. Mother was quite active with Lutheran Ladies Aid, as well as the Wye Ladies.

Dad retired from farming in 1958 leaving those interests to Fred. He built a house on another quarter of land of his across the road close to the Wye Road. For three years they enjoyed this home, relaxing, at gardening. On August 15, 1961 mother passed away leaving Dad there alone until his passing April 11, 1966.

## **MACK, ARNOLD and EDITH**

*by Edith Mack*

Arnold, one of fourteen children, was born on November 23, 1913, in Mac Nutt, Saskatchewan to Elizabeth Schneider and Phillip Mack, who came from the province of Galicia, Austria, at two and three years of age respectively. His father made his living farming, while his mother supplemented the income by selling eggs and cream, also raising chickens and turkeys.

Arnold, as well as his sisters and brothers, attended public and Sunday School in Mac Nutt. He was confirmed in the Lutheran faith at the St. Pauls Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

When the war broke out (1939), Arnold was the only boy left at home. He helped his father with the farming as well as assisting his mother with her many chores. Having a gift in handling animals and especially fond of horses, he was fairly successful in breeding and raising them. Many an "unbroken" horse did he ride before his father ever realized it. Following the war he rented and farmed land close to home. The need for horses was fairly extensive at the time, as the tractor power had not developed, being too expensive. He farmed until 1948 when he lost all his horses due to sleeping sickness. It was then that he lost heart as far as farming goes.

Encouraged by his mother and accompanied by a friend he struck out for the west. On their trip west they stopped for a short period at George Mack's place (a cousin) who at that time farmed somewhere in the Edmonton area. It was a highly successful visit as can be gathered from the events, including some of the mischievous ones that Arnold and George created.

He finally arrived in Edmonton where he spent his first Christmas away from home. It was sheer coincidence that he attended Christmas Day service at St. John's Lutheran Church. When Pastor R. Krisch heard that Arnold was a stranger in town he promptly invited him to share Christmas dinner with his family. Arnold always remembered the kind deed that turned a sad and lonely day into a warm and friendly experience.

Soon after, he located his younger brother, Bill, who operated a waterwell drilling outfit in partnership with a chap called John. Arnold joined them for a short period. It was through the need of wells in the Ardrossan district that he came to meet several families, including Bill Busenius' and A. Missals.

In fact, in 1948-49 he stayed with the Adalbert Missal family where he made fast friends with the neighbors and members of the church band. From the stories I heard he got attached to the members of

the band quite closely, not due to his musical talents (he could not sing or play a note) but with the pranks that he or the band were involved in. He certainly enjoyed that time and had a twinkle in his eyes whenever he spoke about his adventures.

During that period he also joined the Missal family in Sunday worship at the Ardrossan Lutheran Church where Pastor Paul Hanneman officiated. In fact he told me many a time that he not only attended service, but he made certain not to miss any of the delicious lunches or dinners served by the Ardrossan ladies; they were the best. This is how he became involved in helping to build the church sidewalk - for the lunches that followed.

Differences of opinion between Bill and himself led Arnold to the decision to strike out on his own. He got a job as watchman with Interprovincial Pipeline (I.P.L.) where he lived in a small tar paper (shack) trailer right on the site. Apparently he took his duties quite serious. One day the president of I.P.L. came out by himself to visit the plant. Arnold, not knowing who he was, turned him away, as he had no proper identification on his person. Arnold always claimed this incident is what got him a permanent position with I.P.L. It was the next day that Arnold realized who the man he had sent packing was, when Mr. President returned together with other officials, including an identification.

In the fall of 1950 he applied for a permanent position with I.P.L. Requiring a medical check up, a "spot" was discovered on his lungs and off he went to the Sanitorium where he spent the next six months. When after the six months nothing changed on the "spot", doctors assumed it to be a genetical mark and Arnold was discharged from the San. This was in June 1951.

Having some time on his hands and his parents were celebrating their anniversary, Arnold decided to visit MacNutt, Sask. While visiting with friends in Yorkton, he met Edith Ludwig who had emigrated to Canada shortly before that and had been Arnold's pen pal for several months. Love does strange things. The third time he saw Edith he decided to propose marriage to her or rather he talked in circles - like a cat walking around a hot saucer of milk - for two hours until Edith asked him, if this was meant to be a proposal. He was quite surprised that it took her so long to catch on.

Edith was born in Radautzi, Bukovina, Romania. In the fall of 1940 the Ludwig family left Romania returning to Germany. After time spent in camps in Stetten, Remstal and Konigshutte the family was finally settled in Welun, Warthigau. Here Edith was sent off to a boarding school. In 1945 the family left

Welun due to the advancing of the Russian forces. The family (Mrs. Ludwig and the two children, Edith and little Mary) ended up in Dresden.

Being one of the lucky ones to have survived the horror of the night of February 13, 1945 Dresden Air Raid, the family decided to go to Illertissen Schwaben where Mr. Ludwig was known to be. A trip that could have taken 48 hours by train turned into a nightmare that lasted for 10 days of hiding, walking and seeking shelter from the air raids. Edith became separated from her mother and sister. Believing that both were dead, she went on by herself, only to find the rest of her family in Illertissen, who in turn believed that she was killed. So all ended well.

After finishing school and getting her degree in journalism, Edith decided to emigrate to Canada where she arrived in June 1950.

Arnold always said that the year 1951 was a lucky one for him, as that was the year he got married and started a permanent job with I.P.L. The couple were married by Pastor R. Krisch, who shortly after, accepted Edith into the Lutheran faith. She had been raised as a Roman Catholic.

The couple had four children, Bob, Marianne, Susan and Gerry. When the family moved to South Edmonton, they joined the Lutheran congregation, Prince of Peace, and later All Saints which was very close to their home.

In 1962 the family moved to Sherwood Park where they were charter members of Mount Olivet Lutheran Church with Pastor Grant. This is where all the children attended Sunday School and were confirmed. Both Arnold and Edith became active in church, teaching Sunday School, Church Council, committees and Ladies' group. They were also active in a variety of community programs. In all the years Arnold never lost contact with his friends in the Ardrossan district.

In 1976 on February 5, Arnold died after a short illness and was buried near Sherwood Park. He was then sixty two years old. The rest of the family gradually picked themselves up, as life goes on in spite of an empty chair.

Today Bob works at Alberta Hospital. Marianne is an archivist at the Provincial Archives. Susan is owner and executive chef of a brand new restaurant called Wine and Roses and Gerry is going to Nait taking a course in financial management and hopefully later on to University for a degree. Edith is working part time as a registered Nursing Assistant at University of Alberta Hospital as well as looking after their home and garden, which is not only shared by Edith, Marianne and Susan but by five cats and two dogs. Pets were always numerous with this



family. So the time goes and years gone by are remembered with smiles and sadness - but this is life.

### **MISSAL, Adalbert and Eleonore.**

It was a lovely spring day back in June, 1940, when we pulled into our yard with a truck loaded with my bride's dowery. Eleonore's parents, Charlie and Katie Steffler of Spruce Grove, had given us a calf, two cows, a dresser, a pullout bed, a table, some lunch, and a hope chest. The lunch was for the trucker. We didn't think we would have time to make supper or eat at all, with what provisions my brothers had in the larder.

The trucker (Mr. Julius Treichel of Ellerslie) thought we had a lovely place - a lake, an island and such nice black soil. I didn't tell him that it was the only piece of black soil we had, a little patch my brothers couldn't seed earlier in the spring. The land was bought from Teddy Meakin, who had lived on it for over thirty years and farmed a total of eight acres. He left us a little log house with an upstairs and two log barns, all in a state of disrepair, with line fences yards out of place and he claimed that it took some doing. After we have farmed it for forty-five years, I'm inclined to believe him, but there never seemed to be a dull moment in all that time.



One day shortly after we moved in, while we were sorting out chicks, a young fellow walked into our yard who looked like a salesman. I cautioned Eleonore not to buy anything, so we were both surprised when he said, "Hello, I'm your new pastor." It was Pastor Weise coming to call.

During the summer, we cleared off patches of brush from the eight acres. The first "big crop" got cut and arrangements were made for threshing. As the machine began threshing for closer neighbors, we got word that we would be passed by and picked up later. With few roads in existence the outfit had to cross our land to get to the next place. By four o'clock the first teams were seen coming on the trail along the lakeshore. One came up to the yard to inform us that the crew would have supper at our

place. Meanwhile Pastor Weise who was on the crew, was already in the field. A gang for supper and nothing prepared. A quick conference decided the fate of the rooster; the hens were exempt, they were still laying (part of the contribution of my parents, Waldemar and Lena of Ellerslie). Why didn't we just make pancakes? The wife couldn't feed threshers a simple meal like that. But how was I going to catch a rooster in broad daylight? The rooster and I made several rounds across the yard, with a few near-misses on my part, only to be thwarted by his mad dash under a fence. This called for drastic measures so I got out my .22 rifle and that was the end of the chase. Our late-seeded garden supplied adequate vegetables and potatoes.

The first winter in that old log house was something extraordinary. The building was situated on high ground some 300 yards from the lakeshore and somehow the wind seemed to blow continually from the east, the unsheltered side. One very cold night, we were home alone and much too cold to go to bed so we played crib and stoked the fires. We had two stoves going full blast in the one room, due to the condition of the walls. They were covered with gyproc and looked good inside, but we didn't know the chinking had fallen out, allowing the wind to enter freely and refrigerating the house just as freely.

This made ideal lodgings for mice too, what with our big crop of grain in the lean-to on the north side of the house and the hollow space in the walls. We never wanted for company. As the wind got stronger, the racket and squeaking behind the gyproc increased. Movement was noticed halfway up the side of the door to the lean-to, where the gyproc didn't fit very well. The tail of the mouse would flip out of the crack, move down, and disappear at the bottom. After several tails were seen in procession, I caught one, followed it to where the opening was a bit larger and yanked the mouse out. You had to be quick to slap it around the leg of a chair, or risk getting bitten, and lose the mouse. This was a bit messy too. We put a half-filled, not yet-frozen swill pail beside the door, moved the crib board closer to the action and resumed our game. Neither of us remember who won, but our score was 19 mice. They would take this route to get away from the cold side of the house, following the channels between the logs, until the doorway obstructed the passage. Later, we tried some poison, but only once, since they died in places where we couldn't pick them up. There were so many other mouse stories from that house, that we dubbed it the "mouse house". It was also the house we spent a lot of time in by ourselves and if being alone is a honeymoon, then that was it.

Our only transportation was a 1929 Harley-Davidson motorcycle. The first time we went to church, we decided to take a short-cut under one wire fence on the way home, and left my cloth air pilot helmet hanging on the barb-wire. We didn't do much joy-riding after we were married, only when we needed to go for groceries. Coming home on one such trip we got as far as Armstrong's corner (Rge. Rd. 223) on the Wye road where a shower made the two-mile stretch to home impassible. Going back to Salisbury Store corner, which now is the overpass on Highway 14 west of Sherwood Park, (not in existence then) we detoured to where the Polar Park is now. A mile north from the highway at the bottom of a hill, we met the south end of the wet road. I lost control of the bike and we upset. Neither one of us got hurt. The only casualty was the grocery hamper. I can still see the onions bouncing down the road.



The next summer it was evident we couldn't keep the bike. We were expecting to become a family in the fall. I traded the Harley for some plowing, a 1926 Chev truck (actually a remodelled car) and some cash, which I didn't get. The Chev had been cut down to the front seat to accommodate a small flat bed. It had no top. Before it was remodelled again, with a cab to keep the weather out, it made a fast trip to the hospital. Twelve days later we brought Errol home, the first of a family of seven. I would go to Mrs. Gardiner's on the Wye road, the nearest phone, to check on the discharge date. She felt sorry for us and offered the use of her car to bring them home.

Not only was the truck easily recognizable throughout the district, it also required a survival kit. Driving on hilly roads, and there were plenty to the south of us, needed a special technique. We'd go downhill flat out with the gas pedal to the floor in order to build up enough momentum to get up the other side. If the hill was too steep the motor would power out, not quite making the crest. This called for

some fast and fancy footwork, with one foot on the clutch to keep the motor from stalling and the other on the brake to keep the Chevy from rolling back down the hill. There was no foot left for the gas pedal. Here's where the survival kit came into play. The kit had a good-sized stone grabbed from the side of the road, which was used to chock the back wheel. This was no place for a stalled motor, especially when it had to be hand-cranked to start it up again.

At about this time, some oil company came out with a cheaper grade of gas. With the Depression not quite at the turnover, using this gas made it easier on the pocketbook, but didn't do much for engine power or the valves of the motor. On one trip to Spruce Grove, the valves had to be replaced on the way. Valves were another essential for the survival kit as well as a good set of tools.

Before our next trip to the hospital, Eleonore stayed with her sister Irene in Edmonton, so a taxi took care of that trip, but I still had to bring Ma and Carmi home in the old truck.

The summer we got Dad's tractor for some breaking, things weren't going fast enough. To speed it up we used dynamite to blow some of the bigger stumps. With some instruction from a neighbor on the art of blasting, we were ready to tear the field apart. The stumps were flying high and everything was going well until one charge didn't go off as planned. That stopped everything. My brother, Lorenz, couldn't plow for fear of delayed action. We knew how to lay a charge, but not how to defuse a dud. Someone had to tackle the "widow-maker". Using a slight depression alongside the stump for protection, I clawed the packed clay away with my left hand. I kept my head tucked down, and working by touch, managed to defuse the charge. Crimping the cap too tightly on the fuse had choked off the spark and caused the misfire. We still use dynamite, but with much more caution now.

With two little ones now, the mouse house was too cold to live in. It was abandoned after we built a small two-room house in a clearing close by, surrounded by a thick stand of spruce. It was a lovely fall in 1943, including the day when the extra footing was poured on Nov. 24. My Dad and my Father-in-law - a carpenter who worked at a run all day long - had the house finished in a little over a week. We came close to losing it the very next summer, on the 30th of June.

I had spent a hot and sultry afternoon looking for a cow that was due to calve, when I spotted a tornado off to the southwest. I ran back for the camera (instead of for cover). The funnel was closer and coming our way. What to do with Ma and the kids? I



remembered reading about storm cellars, which ours wasn't, but that's where I put them anyway, while I stayed upstairs as a lookout. The trees were whipping about violently in the roaring wind. "There goes the roof of the old house," I said when I saw it tilt, but it settled back down, part-way off the walls. After the big blow passed, I immediately went outside and was amazed that the church, which was two miles distant, could be seen beyond the flattened bush. Trees over 30 feet tall had been bent right to the ground. Later I found out the center of the tornado had passed a half-mile northwest of our yard.



Income on our small operation was rather sparse, and when Dad offered some 90 duck eggs for hatching on a share basis, we took it on. Only one egg hatched. We couldn't divide it so the kids had a pet - "Donald". It went everywhere they did, even shopping. While he was small and controllable, Donald was carried in a lard pail covered with a cloth. Imagine the excitement when he was on top of the cloth greeting everyone in Woodwards with duck talk. Eventually he went where all good ducks go. It's odd that everyone would lose his appetite, all at the same time.

During wartime, machinery of any kind was hard to come by, even household appliances. If you were in need of some item your name went on a waiting list. It was after the war was over in 1946 before goods began reappearing on the market, and the Jeep was one of the first. That was all right by us; we could use it for field work as well as transportation so we bought one. No more getting stuck and spending all night on the road. (Although toward the end of the old truck's era, we managed to overcome that problem. On one trip we carried 16 gallons of water and two waterboys in the back of the truck wetting the wheels to keep the mud from collecting. It seemed that the only time the wheels gummed up was a day or two after a rain. This probably was the only truck

the "wet-down" system would work on.)

Just after the Jeep was bought we were coming home from church one Sunday morning on the same troublesome road - showing off. "Look how well this thing handles the mud, even in two-wheel drive." The next thing I knew we were in the ditch, over the axle in water. Shifting to four-wheel drive and jiggling back and forth we had no problem getting back on the road.

We had the Jeep fitted with power-takeoff and pulley, making it a very versatile rig. We did everything with it but wash the dishes. A cordwood saw was added to the back, so it was quite easy to cover large areas of the district custom-sawing stovewood. Once Eleonore took over the job when wood had to be cut at the church. A field weed-sprayer attached to the front worked equally well, in fact, the county called on me to do some compulsory weed eradication. This was phased out when I was sent to spray a field of barley. The farmer wasn't very happy. It didn't seem practical to me either since the grain was taller than the hood of the Jeep. It didn't get sprayed.



When Ma wanted to go to the hospital for another baby, we were confident in the Jeep for the return trip. At the time Roelle was born, the hospitals were overflowing with war babies and Ma had to wait her turn in the hallway.

The farming life was great, but it was necessary to get a steady job to supplement the farm income, or was it the other way around? The first while I worked at being a clerk for an auction firm. Later I switched to the automotive industry, ending up as a Parts Manager. In the meantime Ma took care of the home front.

With the cattle herd steadily increasing, we ran into a problem with water. We hand-dug several wells and most of the time had enough water for the house, but never enough for the cattle. When you

had to rely on the lake for water it became quite a chore in winter - hiking to the waterhole every day in all kinds of weather, chopping it open only to have mud come up, then going another fifty yards out on the shallow lake and doing it all over again.

We tried a well-driller and didn't have too much luck that way either. After drilling several holes, they gave up, leaving their outfit sitting in our bush for some years. Arnold Mack, who was a part-owner of the outfit, stayed with us for a while after that too.

It was Arnold's car we used to take Ma on another maternity trip on an extremely cold December morning (-40°) - the Jeep was too drafty. Luckily I had come home late from a church council meeting. Otherwise the car wouldn't have started the next morning - no block heater, no electricity. We still managed to pick up my regular passenger and deliver her to her job before Ma delivered Marreen at the Misericordia Hospital.

Our last three, Joedy, Kern and Virri arrived without fanfare or commotion, except they each came home in a better car than the last one. All seven of them had an interest in music and eventually took their turns in school and church bands and choirs. It kept us busy as parents, keeping up with all the school activities. Just going to their concerts and later graduations was an occupation in itself (besides the weekly choir practice, summer parades and whatnot). After that university studies started. Now that grandchildren are in school it's a repeat performance.

With all the other activities, we finally did get a good well, but not until after we lost four cows through the ice. It was a warm spring day and the herd had wandered out on the ice. They gathered near a beaver lodge, but the weakened ice there couldn't sustain the combined weight. How the three of us managed to pull three big cows out of the water is still a mystery - Joedy and Kern were just young teenagers at the time. Unfortunately, hypothermia took its toll and the cows died anyway.

Gradually, with more livestock and better farm equipment, we were finally in a position to build a bigger house, besides we were short of bed space in the little house. Now with more room for everyone, everybody was happy, but not as happy as Ma and the girls when the plumbing was completed indoors. No more snowballs crashing the outhouse door or bursting through the vent above.

As long as I was working in Edmonton, even though I changed to carpentry, I managed to have some free time to spend on the farm. But, when my work took me to Swan Hills for weeks at a time or even longer and farther afield, (like when I was

supervising the building of the Weyburn Arena) I decided that that was enough. The kids were growing up and leaving home and I needed more time at home. I'm still occupied with the many meetings of the Rural Electric Association and other related activities, which leaves me with not enough time for what I like to do most - gardening. All the while Ma is still chugging along.

Now as we sit before the fireplace, basking in its warmth, we can reflect on the many incidents that made life interesting - like the power plant that always ran out of gas on band practice nights, leaving everyone in the dark. Or, whatever happened to the frozen coyote carcass that came to practice in one car and went home in another - several times?

We will never forget when Ma was using the wringer washing machine and Errol (age three) wouldn't keep his hands away from the flywheel. After I wired an electric fencer to the machine to teach him a lesson, Ma got the shock instead, from the bolts inside. I can still see the sparks in her eyes.

So many things keep coming back. Can the big snow storm of March, 1951, be forgotten? The roads had ten-foot drifts and weren't cleared until Easter and ours was one of the last ones done. Then there was the time we took Pastor Hanneman to Fultonvale church over the roller-coaster hills and I had to slow down after he hit his head on the roof of the Jeep. If I had my life to live over, I would leave out the incident from our courting days when the burnt-out motorbike was towed home at sixty miles an hour over gravel roads, with me riding it. Nor do we miss the old cross-country trails we used, to get to church, where even the horses could get bogged down and have to be pulled out of the mud. Our memories are like the trails - a little grown over, but still there.

Relaxing in the comfort of our nice big home, surrounded by the many equally nice homes in the district, it's easy to wonder, "Is it possible that all this really happened?". Can we say that times were hard? Not really! Exciting maybe. We may have been chilly at times, but never hungry. Our sojourn together on the trails of life has lasted for many years, a commitment we renew each day.

## **NEUMANN, HERB and PEARL**

*by Pearl Neumann*

Herb was born and raised in the Ellerslie district close to Edmonton. I was born and raised in the Westlock district.

As a young girl of eighteen I came to Edmonton to work as a clerk. This is where I met Herb; where we were married in 1942 and where we had our first child, Karen. The economical situation was very bad



due to the war, so Herb and I bought bicycles, and repaired them for resale. This line of work eventually extended into the buying and selling of used cars. This was evening work as Herb also had a job. Through this we were able to open up our first bank account.

Shortly after we were married, Herb developed a serious lung condition; the doctor advised us to move out of the city. Upon looking around the country for work, we bought a general store in the Westlock area, called Linaria. We moved in the fall of the year with the feeling of the unknown in our hearts. Unfortunately, the winter was very severe, Karen at the age of six months, developed whooping cough, and could keep very little food down, by spring she had developed ricketts. Herb's health continued to go down hill to where he weighed 120 pounds, partly due to long hours and hard work. Gradually we were able to progress financially to where we were able to buy out our competition.

During those days there was no such thing as rural electricity so we soon had a thriving side business of selling to farmers, what was called light plants, they gave excellent performance supplying electricity.

As our store covered a large area, in the fall we would bring in box car loads of fruit. One fall we brought in an extra amount of plums; due to weeks of continual rain, farmers were unable to pick up their fruit. Every jar we had in the house was used to can plums, needless to say after that I refused to can another jar of plums.

Our second daughter, Donna, was born here. After five years in Linaria, we sold out and took a six week holiday. Upon our return home we decided to buy a large store in Sangudo.

We enjoyed our life in Sangudo, we were ready to make many commitments to our job and friends, again, our path was to be changed. On New Years Eve, we received a phone call at 2 a.m. telling us our store was ablaze, this is one night we will never forget. The village was fire red in the glow of the burning of our store. What were we to do now? We were much under insured. Since our insurance did not provide us with enough money to rebuild a store, we decided to move back into Edmonton.

Wanting to remain in the store business, we bought out a store in the McKernon district on the south side, the area was called Parkallen. Years ago it was a lake and had been drained and developed, into a community. The sewage system had been underdeveloped, so that in the first summer of living there we had three floods, and the city closed off our store. Each time we would go knocking on the customers doors asking them to come back to our

store to shop.

For a long time Herb had been wanting a son to carry on the Neumann name. We were advised by doctors to adopt. We applied to the Adoption Agency and had one more interview to go before we were to get our adopted baby, however it wasn't to be. God would bless us once again with our own baby, whom Karen and Donna named John, after hearing the story of Zacharia and Elizabeth and their baby John (the Baptist) in Sunday School. What joy there was, four of us to raise him.

As the years progressed the business was doing well. A business man in the Parkallen district had been wanting to buy our store. He made us such an attractive offer we couldn't turn it down.

Independent grocers had approached Herb to work for them, to set up the M.M. stores and the I.G.A. stores. Herb worked for them for two years at which time they asked him to move to Calgary. Herb and I did not wish to move, so Herb quit them, which led us into a completely new line of work.

One of our acquaintances was an upholsterer who had his own shop. He was on the verge of bankruptcy; he asked Herb to take over the management and get the company out of debt. If Herb could do that, he would give him 51 percent of the shares, cost to Herb no money down. Being fortunate to have a good credit rating, the bank and wholesale houses were willing to wait and see if he could do that.



*Herb and Pearl Neuman*

Within one year the business was back on its feet and all bills paid off. The following year the original owner asked Herb to buy him out as he wanted to move to Australia. We did this and renamed the company Seat Cover Centre.

After seventeen years of hard work and long hours, Herb and I decided we wanted to retire. So we

sold the business to our two daughters and sons-in-law. We moved out to beautiful British Columbia where we spent four happy years. We now had extra time to spend with our Lord, our church family in Chilliwack led us to a richer and more meaningful life.

During this period of time Herb became ill and with the more excellent treatment he would receive in Edmonton, we decided to move back to be with our family.

As we now live in the Ardrossan area, we are thankful for our hours of fellowship and devotion at St. John's Lutheran Church.

## OTTO, RALPH and FAMILY

*by Donna Otto*

Ralph was raised on the Southside in Edmonton where he attended Trinity Lutheran Church with his parents Nora and Fred and his four brothers and sister. He was baptized there in 1946 and confirmed in 1961. He met and married his wife Donna, also from Edmonton, at Trinity Lutheran Church in 1968. Donna was confirmed Lutheran in March of 1969 at Augustana Lutheran near where they lived at that time.



*1984 - Donna and Ralph Otto with their children Jeff and Wendy.*

Their first child, a daughter Wendy, was born in August 1973. She was baptized in November of that year at Trinity Lutheran. Two years later their son Jeff was born. By that time the Ralph Ottos had moved to Sherwood Park and had transferred to Mount Olivet Lutheran Church where Jeff was baptized in 1975.

After living for four years in Sherwood Park, the R. Otto's then moved to an acreage, ten miles east of Sherwood Park, in the Ardrossan area. They still reside there some nine and one-half years later. It was

shortly after moving to the acreage that they heard of the small congregation of St. John's from their neighbors, the Bill Laiss'. After expressing some interest in visiting the church, it wasn't until Alfred Weiman telephoned to invite them to attend the Palm Sunday Service there that they finally went for their first visit. That was in 1982. They were overwhelmed at how friendly and close the people were at St. John's, so were encouraged to continue attending church on Sundays. That summer Donna was Superintendent of Vacation Bible School. (VBS) By that time they had met many of the congregation and the Pastor, Roy Pudrycki. Besides finding the Pastor very amicable, they also found him to be open-minded and fair and not afraid to speak his mind. The Ralph Otto Family were convinced. This was finally the Church where they were made to feel they belonged. They transferred into the congregation in November of 1982. Since then the children, Wendy and Jeff, have attended Sunday School, and Donna has been involved with V.B.S. and Sunday School as a teacher.

## PARSONS, BERT and DORIS

*by Wendy Parsons*

Bert was born on June 19, 1931 and was raised in the Athabasca area. Doris was born on March 18, 1932 in Hague, Saskatchewan, and was raised in the Saskatoon area. Bert and Doris were married in Edmonton on June 5, 1954.

Bert and Doris Parsons and family first moved to the Ardrossan area in October 1962 to the acreage of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Parsons. Bert and Doris's daughters Wendy, Cynthia and Roberta all attended Wye School for one year. In October of 1963 we moved back to the city of Edmonton. In August of '64 we returned to the Ardrossan area where we resided at the old Harry Burke farm.

Wendy was born April 2 '52 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Wendy attended Ardrossan Jr. Sr. High School from Grade 7 - Grade 12 and graduated in the spring of '71.

Born December 15 '55 in Edmonton, Cynthia attended Elementary, Jr. Sr. High from Grade 4 to grade 9.

Born December 13 '57 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Roberta attended primary, elementary, Jr. Sr. High from grade 2 to grade 8 and furthered her education when the family moved back to Edmonton. She completed grade 10 at McNally High School.

Tracy Parsons was born March 17 '67 and lived in the Ardrossan area to the age of 4. Travis Parsons was born April 19 '71. Travis was 7 months old when



we moved back to Edmonton.

Wendy and Cindy both participated in the Ardrossan 4-H Sewing Club. Cindy and Bobby were members of the Ardrossan Elementary School tap dancing and majorette group.

Our family attended St. John's Lutheran Church and Cindy and Bobby were members of the youth group. Tracy and Travis were baptised by Rev. Hanneman and Wendy, Cindy and Bobby were confirmed by the Rev. P. Hanneman.

All members of the family now reside in Edmonton except Wendy who lives on an acreage north of Fort Assiniboine, Alberta.

Wendy and Cindy had a double wedding on December 27 '80. Wendy married Garry Penno, a resident of the Barrhead area. Cindy and husband Larry Brunen, who was born in Dauphin, Manitoba have two children, Jason, 7, born March 11 '77 and Steven, 2, born February 3 '82.

Roberta married Myles Schriml from Humbolt, Saskatchewan on July 2, 1982. They also have 2 sons: Johnathon, 5, born June 10 '79 and Matthew, 3, born September 20 '81. They are expecting their third child, another bundle of joy in December 1984.

Tracy is attending her final year of school at M.E. Lazert High School in Edmonton and Travis is in his 8th grade at Kilarney, Edmonton.

We are all now members of Hope Lutheran Church in Edmonton.

## **PLATZKE, LEONARD and WANDA**

*by Freda Henkelman*

Leonard Platzke (Ploetzke) was born on November 4, 1902 in Pasioka, Prussian occupied Poland. He was the son of German parents, Friedrich and Mathilda (Kruger) Platzke. Leonard emigrated to Canada with his only sister, Raella, in 1928 from Izbica, Poland. They settled in the Edmonton area where later he was to meet and marry Wanda Werner.

Wanda Werner was born on September 5, 1901 in Aleksandrowka-Wolhynia, Ukraine. She was the daughter of Adolf and Luise (Grams) Werner, also of German descent. Wanda's mother passed away in 1920, at the age of 49, in Goslar, Germany. In 1926, Wanda, her father, Adolf, two brothers, Daniel and Ben and sister, Helen, emigrated to Canada.

The weather was rainy and cold when Wanda and the rest of the family arrived at the South Edmonton Canadian Pacific Railroad Station. However, they were greeted warmly by Reverend Wahl and brother-in-law Henry Stucke. Henry had his fast horses ready and waiting to take the family to his home. Unfortunately, the horses got tired due to the muddy



*April 14, 1929 - Leonard and Wanda Platzke*

roads, so everyone had to walk in the deep mud part of the way. The new clothes and leather shoes were soaked and ruined.

When they finally arrived at the Stucke home, they were greeted by Wanda's sister, Natalie, and other relatives who had previously emigrated to Canada. This was a joyful reunion for all. Wanda stayed with her sister for a few weeks, until she was able to find a job housekeeping in Edmonton. She worked at this job until her marriage to Leonard.

The wedding took place on April 14, 1929 at the St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Ellerslie. Reverend R. Krisch performed the ceremony, which was followed by a reception at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Grams, Wanda's Uncle and Aunt.

After their marriage, Leonard and Wanda rented a farm in the Looma area. It was then that Freda, at the age of seven months, became part of the Platzke family. This meant more work for Wanda especially extra laundry. She had to carry water into the house and heat it on the wood-burning stove for the laundry. Wanda also managed to do the gardening, canning and the farm chores. To supplement their income Leonard worked for other farmers, clearing land and on threshing crews.

Leonard and Wanda saved enough money to pay a deposit on a quarter section of land at the southwest corner of Half Moon Lake. After clearing some of their land, they built a small one room log house. It was in this house that all three of their children were born, Walter, Robert (Ben) and Lillian. To accommodate their family, Leonard built an addition to the house.

The family blended into the community by attending church services which were held in the Garden School. Later they helped build the St. John's Lutheran Church. In this church Walter, Ben and Lillian were baptized and confirmed. Freda was

baptized in the St. Paul's Lutheran church in Ellerslie. One of Leonards contributions to the St. John's congregation was that he helped dig the graves with pick and shovel, this was a difficult task, especially in winter. The family has many cherished memories of the years spent in that community.

In 1956, Leonard and Wanda decided to leave the farm and move to Edmonton, where they purchased a home. Leonard got a job with the Provincial Government for the Department of Highways. First he was a caretaker, then later he became a foreman in the Scona shop. He worked there for eleven years, until his retirement.



1945 - Platzke Family L-R: Robert (Ben), Wanda, Freda, Leonard, Walter, Lillian in front.



1936 - Len and Wanda Platzke's first log home.

On March 29, 1974, Leonard suffered a heart attack and passed away at the age of 71. Wanda is 84 years of age and is residing in her home in Edmonton. She enjoys her children, her 14 grandchildren and her 9 great grandchildren.

The children of Leonard and Wanda Platzke are; Freda and Norman Henkelman, their four

children; Shawna, Denton, Gwen and Joelle, and three grand children, live in Edmonton, Alberta.

Walter and Yvonne Platzke, their two daughters: Tammy and Wendy Lee, live in Kelowna, British Columbia.

Lillian and Erich Taylor, their three children: Kenneth, Colleen and Duane, and three grand children, live in Edmonton, Alberta.

Son Robert (Ben) passed away suddenly at the age of 38, in 1978. His wife Pam and their five children: Dean, Blaine, Shelley, Jacqueline, Belinda and three grand children, live in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

## PRETZLAFF, ALBERTINA

by Henry Pretzlaff

Albertina Pretzlaff (Gaetz) was born in Borki, Poland on August 30, 1885 and confirmed in Gombin, Poland. In 1908 she married Daniel Pretzlaff. They were married 21 years, during that time five sons and five daughters were born. All were baptised into the Lutheran faith and in the Gombin church in Poland.

Three sons passed away as young children. Her husband passed away in 1929 leaving her with seven children; one of them was lost in World War II, one



Church of Gambin Poland and Pastor Bruno Gutknecht who served the congregation from 1930-1939.



daughter Martha Zielke lives in the United States, Julius and Johanne (Klause) in Sherwood Park area, Otto in Edmonton, Olga Wolfer in Medicine Hat and Wilhelmina Strei in West Germany. She left Poland because of persecution by Polish soldiers. She came to Germany in 1946 where they joined a Lutheran Church in Walsrode. They emigrated by boat to Canada in 1952 and by train to Edmonton in the same year.

The Art Tarron family, with help from the children Johanne, Olga, Otto, and Julius sponsored her immigration and invited her to live with them for a while. She joined St. John's Lutheran Church in Edmonton and then moved to the Fultonvale area in 1953. She was invited to join the Fultonvale congregation in 1956 by Pastor Hanneman. During her church going years she was an active member and supporter of Ladies Aid.



*1976 - Albertina Pretzlaff*

The early death of her husband and one son, Wilhelm, and the total loss of property in Poland through the war caused her much grief. Through her unflinching faith she overcame many hardships and continued her faithfulness until her death at the age of 93 on January 12, 1979.

## **PRETZLAFF, HENRY and LEONA**

*by Henry Pretzlaff*

Henry was born on March 4, 1944 in Troschin (Troszyn) Poland. He along with his family moved to Walsrode, Germany in 1945. His family then lived in an upstairs farmhouse until their departure for Canada in 1951.

Upon their arrival in Saskatchewan he lived with Uncle Herman Pretzlaf for two weeks; then they moved to a farm in Namao Edmonton. After being forced to give up the rented farm, his family moved to the Fultonvale area.



*1985 - Amy, Heinrich, Leona and Lisa Pretzlaff*

Henry, with his family, became a member of Zion Lutheran Church, Fultonvale congregation in 1954. Henry was confirmed by Pastor P. Hanneman in September 14, 1958. Along with his family he joined St. John's Lutheran Church Ardrossan when the two congregations merged.

On August 14, 1971, Henry married Leona (nee Ryll). They are blessed with two girls: Amy born August 7, 1973 and Lisa born June 24, 1976.

## **PRETZLAFF, JULIUS and JULIANNA**

Julius was born in Gombin, (Gambin) Poland in 1911 and Julianna was born in Troschin (Troszyn), Poland in 1904. Julius and Julianna both were confirmed in the Gombin church by Pastor Bruno Löffler. Julius served two years in the Polish army and four years in the German Army. Julius married Julianna on March 1, 1938. They operated an orchard in Poland until they were forced to flee to Germany in 1945. During this time they were blessed with three sons: Daniel, Oskar and Heinrich. After their arrival in Germany they became members of the Walsrode Evangelisch Gemeinde (Lutheran Church). Julius worked as a factory labourer making tiles, and Julianna as farm help. During their stay in Germany they rented an upstairs suite where they lived until they emigrated to Canada in 1951.

On the invitation from Julianna's brother Herman Pretzlaf of Saskatchewan, they decided to make Canada their new home. After a two week stay with him on the farm, Julius' brother, Otto, found him a job as a carpenter in Edmonton. They joined St. John's Lutheran Church in Edmonton in the fall of 1951.

They rented a farm in the vicinity of the Namao



1951 - Oskar, Julianna, Daniel, Julius and Heinrich Pretzlaff

Airport for one year, and then due to the airport expansion were forced to look elsewhere for a home. They bought a farm in the Fultonvale district in 1953, located 3 miles south of the Fultonvale Zion Lutheran Church.

On the invitation of Pastor P. Hanneman in 1953, they became members of the Fultonvale congregation. Julius served as a member of the council for six years.

With the help of neighbours and a job as a carpenter they settled into their new home.

After the Fultonvale congregation merged with the Ardrossan congregation, Julius again served as a councilman and Julianna became a member of the Ladies Aid. They were instrumental in the building of the new Ardrossan church.

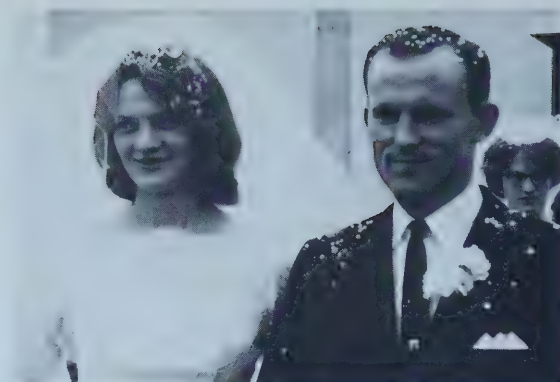
Julianna passed away on October 1, 1979 at the age of 74 years. Julius continues to live on the farm in the Fultonvale area.

## PRETZLAFF, OSKAR and EILEEN

*by Oskar Pretzlaff*

I was the middle of three sons born to my parents, Julianna and Julius Pretzlaff in 1942, the others being Daniel and Heinrich and a fourth son who passed away at a very young age. In 1945 we moved to Germany, where we lived in a farmer's house upstairs. My father worked in a brick factory and my mother worked on the farm. I attended two years of public school in Germany.

In 1951 we came to Canada and lived on my uncle's farm in Saskatchewan for a short while. I remember my father working for different farmers making hay for five dollars per day. After three weeks we moved to the Namao area. The first school I attended in Canada was Namao Elementary which as it turns out is the same school my children at-



Oskar and Eileen Pretzlaff. Married July 1, 1966. This was the second wedding in the new church building.



1985 - Oskar, Eileen, Richard and Jeannette Pretzlaff

tended when they started school. They even used the same classroom that I did. Shortly thereafter, my parents bought a farm in the Fultonvale area. There we went to a one room school, two and a half miles away. All the kids from the area were taught by one teacher, grades one to six in one room. I took confirmation instruction from Pastor Hanneman at Zion Lutheran Church in Fultonvale and was confirmed there. I finished public school at Salisbury High School and later entered N.A.I.T. Later when the Fultonvale congregation became too small we were asked to join St. John's Lutheran Church in Ardrossan. There I met my wife, Eileen Birkholtz,



and in 1966 we were married by Pastor Hanneman in St. John's Lutheran Church. In 1967 we bought a farm in the Fultonvale area and built a home on it. In 1970 our son, Richard, was born. A few years later my uncle's farm in the Namao area was up for sale and we sold our land in Fultonvale and bought the land in Namao. Our daughter, Jeannette, was born in 1973. Again we were able to build a new home and other buildings. During these years I worked at Interprovincial Pipelines and later at Genstar Cement to help make the farm go.

## **READ, DENNIS and JOYCE**

*by Joyce Read*

Dennis David Read was born on September 4, 1946 to Arvid and Millie Read of Bashaw, Alberta. He is the second oldest in a family of four boys. Dennis was baptized and confirmed at Zion Lutheran Church, Bashaw.

Joyce Alice Schultz was born on June 21, 1952 to Walter R. and Lorina Schultz of Bashaw, Alberta. She is the second oldest in a family of three girls and one boy. Joyce was baptized and confirmed at Zion Lutheran Church, Bashaw.

On September 2, 1972 at Bashaw, Joyce and Dennis were united in marriage by Pastor Arno Bablitz. Joyce and Dennis lived in Edmonton where Joyce was employed by the Provincial Government and Dennis was apprenticing to become a plumber. In 1973 they had their church membership transferred to Hope Lutheran, Edmonton.

On June 14, 1975 Nicole Alice was born. She was baptized by Pastor Irwin Holm at Hope Lutheran. In 1976 Joyce and Dennis built their own house at Antler Lake. One week after moving in on October 5, 1976 Kimberly Anne was born. She was also baptized by Pastor Irwin Holm at Hope Lutheran.

It was at this time Joyce and Dennis decided to find a church a bit closer as it was difficult to get to church when church seemed so far away. Pastor Holm told them of St. John's, so Joyce phoned and found out service time. Joyce was very excited about going to a neat old country church with a tall steeple and bell. Boy, was she disappointed when they drove up and here sat this modern building! After attending for some time, Joyce, Dennis and the girls had their memberships transferred to St. John's in the fall of 1977.

In June of 1978 Joyce, Dennis and family moved to their present home at Voyageur Estates. On January 6, 1980 Jocelyn Denise was born. She was baptized by Pastor Roy Pudrycki at St. John's.

Presently, Nicole, Kimberly and Jocelyn attend church and Sunday School with their parents. Joyce



*1983 - L-R: Dennis and Joyce Read, Nicole, Kimberly and Jocelyn in front*

shares Sunday School Superintendent duties and teaches a Sunday School class. To the Read family, St. John's is now truly their church home.

## **RENAS, ROBERT and JULIANNA**

*by niece Elsie Beck*

Robert was born in Wolhynia, Russia in 1887. He came to West Prussia in 1908. It was here that he married my Auntie Julianna Reichard. They lived briefly in Cologne, Germany, before emigrating to Canada in 1911. They settled in the Ellerslie area.

My Uncle Robert and Julianna, who was a sister to my mother Christina Felske, made contact with St. John's congregation when they lived in the parish house. This was in the early 1940's. They resided at various different places in the area of the church.

They lived in Edmonton and then at the farm that is now the Eric Felske property. From there they went to Radway Centre and back to Edmonton,



*1935: Mr. & Mrs. Robert Renas and their first car.*

where Uncle Robert worked for the Gainers Packing Plant. Then they went to Half Moon Lake, and to the church house.

Uncle put the first picket fence around the old church building, and made the swinging door. He also painted the church floor.

From there, he went to what is now the Richard Schmidt property. Then to Colchester where Uncle worked as a janitor at the school. He eventually returned to Edmonton, where he worked for Seven-Up, until his retirement. He passed away in June of 1971 at the age of 85 years.

Auntie lived in their house on 89 Street and 77 Avenue until the age of 85 years, when she could no longer manage. After nearly eight years in the Hardisty Home, she was transferred to the Good Samaritan Auxillary Hospital where she passed away in late November of 1983. She was 96.

Uncle had a good sense of humor, or it could have been mostly rage. On a fishing trip to Wizard Lake, a fish made off with his hook. He threw the reel in after it and muttered something to the effect, "You ate my hook, you can have the reel, too."

Auntie would tell the story of the great thunder storm when lightening struck and burned the fence. The cows stampeded and it took the better part of two days to gather them all up again.

She would also tell of how she had to melt snow in the winter time in order to get enough water for the livestock.

Like all pioneers, Auntie and Uncle had very difficult times, but each day was lived to the fullest. A good sense of humor and hard work made the years enjoyable and prosperous.

## SCHILMAN, SIEGMUND and IRMA

*by Irma Schilman*

Siegmund was born in 1905 to Jacob and Matilda Schilman in Zabudow Kreis Chobin, Poland, where he also received his education. Siegmund remembers a Pastor Theodor Bergman from Kamien, who also served in the Chobin area as well.

During World War One and suffering from the ravishes of it, the Schilmans were forced to move to Annapol in July of 1915, but were allowed to return by September of the same year.

On their trek east they moved as slow as possible, hoping the German Army would catch up and rescue them. Even the Russian soldiers said, "Go slow. What do you want in Russia? Starve to death." Those people that the war didn't kill, the dreaded disease Typhoid Fever (spotted fever) did. During the time of the evacuation, their church at Kamien was destroyed by arson.

Receiving the care of her family for three bed-ridden years, Siegmund's mother who suffered from arthritis, died on June 8, 1919. Siegmund and his sister, Alvina, survived the Flu epidemic.

To make a living Siegmund worked for farmers and others from 1923 to 1928, also keeping up on his trade of shoemaker and weaver. His father who had a well established linen weaving business, married again, whereupon Siegmund took care of Alvina. In 1927 his father died leaving everything to him. Although Siegmund enjoyed the custom work as weaver and made a good living at it, "the grass seemed greener on the other side of the fence," in this case, on the other side of the ocean. With some encouragement from his friend, August Seidlitz, who left for Canada in 1928, Siegmund sold his business and emigrated to Canada also.

Promising his sister and her two children, Karl and Olga, that he would send for them as soon as he was able, Siegmund arrived in Edmonton on April 14, 1930. He was met by Rev. W. Wahl who put him up for the night and sent him on his way to Barrhead the next day, where he met his compatriot, August Seidlitz.

Siegmund was soon in the brush clearing business, when he joined up with August - who had also advanced the cost of the fare for Siegmund - in that venture until fall, when there was a change of one type of hard work of using axes all day, to using pitch forks for harvesting. They bummed to Mannville to stook and thresh grain. On the last Sunday while attending Church Services there, lo and behold! if they didn't meet up with old friends from Poland, the Hanchs.



1979 - Schilman Family Back L-R: Eric, Judy, Willy, Marilyn holding Nathan Middle: Tara, Erma, Siegmund, Jonathan, Jennifer, Christopher



After the harvest was completed they wound up in the Ardrossan district at the home of Wm Felske, where Siegmund worked for room and board. They couldn't afford to pay wages - considering the economic conditions at the time, a person was thankful to be accepted with open arms. The children taught him to read English, while other long winter evenings were spent reading or playing cards, which Siegmund enjoyed very much. He still considers this his home away from home - yet never missing an opportunity by accepting any job available.

All the while he never forgot the promise he had made to his sister. However, before that could happen, death struck again. This time, in 1931, it was his sister, Alvina, who died, leaving her children, a ten year old son and a five year old daughter, orphans. Olga who later came to Canada was fostered by Mrs. Kern, but Karl was jostled from home to home until he could fend for himself.

When the church, St. John's Lutheran, was being built in 1935, Siegmund helped, cutting logs for lumber. Later when the site was prepared and ready for construction, he took part in that as well. Afterwards he joined the congregation as a member.

In the ensuing years, when Siegmund wasn't away for the fall harvest, he would be building or cutting mine props with Emil Wendland, on a farm he had put a down payment on in 1938 but later in '42 let it go again. Siegmund spent several harvest seasons with the Klapstein family in Eilerslie and one year even going as far as Vermilion on his bicycle.

Siegmund considers the year 1941 as a mile post, as that was the year he bought 80 acres, in the Douglas School district, which was later to become "home". Ed Wendt helped him clear land, at first, enough for a house and yard. He realized enough logs to build a two room house, afterwards other buildings were added as needed. Ed and Siegmund batched while clearing more land or cutting many more mine props for sale. This was also the year when Rev. G. Wiese, was serving our church and asked Gerhard Felske and Siegmund to help along in the Fultonvale Zion Lutheran Church's Christmas Concert. They both played their violins, adding a musical touch to the concert, and making it better. Here is where he met Irma Berndt, oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gottfried Berndt, who was also taking part in the program.

In the spring of 1942 the Berndt family moved to their farm in the Uncas district. Siegmund and August did some brushing for them that summer.

Siegmund liked what he saw and began courting Irma earnestly, although secretly, until November, when the wedding plans were made and acted upon.

Irma was trying on a bridal apparel at Eatons. Fantasizing in front of a threeway mirror of the happy events to come, she spotted some folks from Ardrossan eyeing her. She realized immediately that "the cat was out of the bag."

Siegmund and Irma were married 7 p.m., Dec. 29, 1942 in an appropriate candle light service - no electricity then - when Julius Birkholz lit the candles on the Christmas tree and guarded it closely during the wedding ceremony. After leaving the church on that very cold blustery evening, they didn't travel very far when the radiator began to steam indicating that it was frozen, boiling the water out - antifreeze was not readily available during the war years - so they returned to the parsonage for some hot water to remedy the situation. On arriving at the Berndt home, the Chiverree (cha-riv-a-ri - A noisy and discordant burlesque serenade, to a newly married couple or an unpopular personage, performed with tin pans, horns, kettles etc; also spelled shivaree *Brittanica dictionary* - local customs included a shot gun) were already waiting, verifying the fact that the supposed secret was more wide spread than anticipated.

They lived at home for a month, then decided that they might as well set up "house" on their own, so they ventured off to Siegmund's farm with what little they had. They were thankful for the help they received from Irma's parents especially for the cow and heifer; cluck with chicks and other things. With the presence of the animals on the place made it look like a farmyard and the feeling of loneliness was somewhat eased, although not entirely, particularly when Irma was home alone with Siegmund out working for Swoneks cutting ice blocks on Cooking Lake in winter and picking roots for Dan Werner in summer. All this extra work helped provide for a livelihood and eventually there was enough left over to buy a team of horses. The loneliness turned to fright especially when the coyotes serenaded in the night. One or two always sounded like a dozen and as though they were just behind the house.

Things changed, when on July 9, 1947, their first born, a son Eric, arrived, completing the picture. Even though we lived somewhat in isolation, he was born in an Edmonton hospital. All too fast his school years arrived and now the isolation was even more pronounced, when he had to trudge the three miles to Douglas School. Siegmund borrowed a pony for him to ride. This had some drawbacks when the duck hunting season opened and what seemed like a small war had been declared. This was a great duck hunting area, so near to Cooking Lake - the blasts of the shot guns frightened the pony and left Eric sprawling in

the middle of the hard road, with the pony heading for home at high speed and Eric following slowly behind.

In 1952 Judith was born and joined the Schilman Clan. She was only six days old when her Grandpa (Gottfried Berndt) passed away and two years old when Siegmund and Irma pulled up stakes, moving to Lamont in Dec. 1954.

Even though life itself on the farm improved, the roads did not. Being off the mainstream somewhat, the spring thaw or a heavy rain storm made roads practically impassable, unless by horse power.

In Lamont Judith and Eric finished their schooling, with Judith continuing her education at the University of Alberta, Edmonton for another four years.

Siegmund entered into a Watkins dealership selling Patent Medicine, spices and household products. This provided a good living for five years. After the next five years, which were taken up by carpentry work at Fort Sask. Woodworks, he retired.

During and prior to World War II they were sending parcels and corresponding with Karl, Siegmund's nephew in Germany. This eventually ended and all contact was lost. It was assumed that he had died. Year later they found out that he was married and very much alive when he ended up on their doorstep one summer.

Karl's wife had relatives in Calgary whom they came to visit. While in Calgary he wrote a letter to Schilman addressed to Uncas which was returned, whereupon they assumed that Siegmund did not exist anymore either. The relatives took Karl and his wife for a tour to see the farm lands of Saskatchewan, on the return trip via Edmonton, on Highway 16 and like all tourists, Karl paid close attention to place names posted along the highways when he spotted the sign directed to Uncas. He insisted that they go no further until he could satisfy his curiosity and concern for Siegmund. Surely! he thought, there was someone who would know of Schilmans whereabouts, or if he was still among the living. Upon arriving at the Uncas Store and on the reply to their inquiry, they proceeded to Mrs. Berndts, a few miles from the store. Mrs. Berndt knew of Karl and was pleased, she gave them lunch and proper directions to Lamont.

Responding to the ringing doorbell, they saw a stranger of about 50 years, who asked if they were Schilmans. Yes, we were. He said "Ich bin Karl, Onkel" (I am Karl, Uncle). After all these years who would recognize the 10 year old boy of several decades ago, now a grown man. What a happy reunion, like a dream come true. After visiting us for

five days they returned to Calgary. We are forever thankful for the very noticeable highway signs we have in Alberta. We had a wonderful time on our return visit with them in 1973.

In 1980 Olga, Karl's sister came for a visit. The highlights of that trip being a grand reunion with her foster mother in Vernon, B.C.

Eric married Marilyn Zenko in 1968 and have a family of three boys and three girls; Tara, Jennifer, Jonathan, Christopher, Nathan and Kathryn. They had lived in Edmonton and Fort Saskatchewan but now reside on an acreage east of Josephburg. His occupation is a salesman.

Judith left for Australia on a Teacher Exchange program in 1974 for one year. In her accumulation of friends she met her Prince Charming, Graham W. Mickan and married him on April 22, 1978, establishing a permanent home there. Graham is an electrician by trade and has his own business. They visit us at every opportunity and now have a baby boy born March 7, 1985.

Irma worked in the Archer Memorial Hospital since 1961, just two blocks from home and enjoy it very much being, always aware of the importance of sterilizing and other hospital duties. Siegmund is puttering in his work shop whenever he feels like it. Building wishing wells was one of his hobbies that came out of his shop. They have a comfortable home and are happy living in Lamont. Although they are some 35 miles from St. John's church, they have retained their membership in the congregation for some 42 years now. The distance curtails their attendance somewhat but are very grateful for the blessings of good health and happiness bestowed on them.

## **SCHMIDT, RICHARD and IRA**

Richard Schmidt was born to Heinrich and Emma Schmidt (Schlack) on the 28th of May, 1931 in Kiciny, Poland. At the age of nine, Richard's mother passed away on July 24, 1941. Richard continued to live in Poland until 1949 when he, his father and oldest sister relocated to Germany.

In 1950 they boarded a ship bound for Canada. When they arrived, they joined Richard's three sisters who had emigrated earlier and were living in Barrhead, Alberta. His father lived in Barrhead until his death on April 23, 1971 at the age of 91.

Richard worked in forestry around the Whitecourt area for several years, and eventually moved to Edmonton where he became a carpenter, laying hardwood floors. In April of 1953, he met Ira Rose and on April 24, 1954 they were married in the Trinity Lutheran Church in Edmonton.





*1954 - Ira and Richard Schmidt*

Ira Rose was born to Carl and Albertine Rose (Haupt) on the first day of October, 1934 in Eigengrund, Russia.

Ira and her family fled from Russia in 1943 and went to Poland. They stayed in Poland until January 1, 1945 when they relocated to Germany. Ira and one of her brothers, left Germany by ship and arrived in Edmonton, Alberta on November 13, 1952.

Ira went to stay with her Aunt and Uncle, Adolph and Berta Minchau, and she "thanks God for their love and support!" She first worked at St. Joseph's College cafeteria, serving students and later went to work at Zeidlers until she married Richard.

In 1960 Ira and Richard bought a farm in Ardrossan and joined St. John's Lutheran Church the following year. By this time they had four children, one daughter and three sons: Ralph, November 17 '54; Ursula, July 4 '56; Rudolph, December 2 '57 and Harvey October 6 '59. They were all baptised in Trinity Lutheran Church and confirmed in St. John's Lutheran Church by Pastor Hanneman. The entire



*1964 - Richard, Ira, Harvey, Rudy, Ralph and Ursula Schmidt*

Schmidt family has very fond and loving memories of Pastor Hanneman.

Ursula taught Sunday School, Grades 3 and 4 with Mary Busenius for some time and along with her two youngest brothers participated in the youth group. Ira sang in the Church Choir for several years and was a member of the Ladies Aid.

Ralph married Margaret Mainland on June 26, 1982 and have a son, Braden, born July 10, 1984 and they live in Sherwood Park. Ursula married Jim Bachman on July 19, 1980 and live on the farm beside her parents. Rudy is a bachelor and lives in Edmonton. Harvey married Gina Radawetz on July 17, 1982; they have a daughter, Jaimie, born September 26, 1984 and live in Edmonton.

Both Richard and Ira, like many, suffered the loss of family and friends during the Second World War. Still living are Richard's four sisters, three in Alberta and one in Bruxelles, Belgium.

Ira's parents and youngest sister still live in Germany. One brother lives in Seattle, Washington, one brother and one sister live in Edmonton, and one brother lives in Ardrossan and is a member of St. John's Lutheran Church, John and Eleanor Rose and family.



*Dec. 1985 - Richard and Ira Schmidt with their grandchildren Jaimie and Braden*

Richard has been working for Ipsco for several years, Ira is a domestic engineer and they are still farming.

"With God's help we have made it this far and with God's help we will make it further."

## **SCHOEPP, ED and LUDIE**

*by Ed Schoepp*

I, Ed Schoepp, was born in Stony Plain, May 7, 1926. I was baptized and confirmed at Blueberry St. John Lutheran Church. We lived on a farm. In 1945

my dad bought land in the Josephburg area, and we moved out there.



*1984 - Ed Schoepp family: Back: Joyce, Lloyd, Ludie  
Front: Wayne, Darlene, Ed.*

In 1950, July 14, Ludie Schultz and I were married, in the Bruderheim Moravian church. Ludie was born in Bruderheim August 15, 1929. She lived on a farm. Ludie was baptized and confirmed at the Moravian church at Bruderheim.

We live on a farm and raise hogs. We have four children, Wayne, Lloyd, Joyce and Darlene. They all were baptized at the Bethany Lutheran Church. Wayne and Lloyd were also confirmed there. We joined St. John's Lutheran Church in Ardrossan in 1977. Joyce and Darlene were confirmed there.

## **SEIDLITZ, AUGUST and LYDIA**

*by Jane Libich*

August was born in Borosiv, Poland, on August 2, 1901. As he grew up he began working with his father on the farm and then later went into the lumbering business.

In 1928, August decided to come to Canada due to rumors of adventure and better economic conditions. In April of 1928, August left Poland on a ship and arrived in Canada in May of the same year.

August started working with various farmers as a farmhand when he first came to Canada. He mainly worked with threshing crews and brush clearing crews, in the Barrhead area. When these crews were not at work August would pick stones or hew logs to build barns and houses.

Six years later in August, he met a woman by the name of Lydia Hanke. He fell in love with her, and on September 17, 1936 they were married in Edmonton. They then settled down in the Ardrossan area.

Lydia was born at Carvel in the Stony Plain district, on March 18, 1917, to Bill and Whilimenna



*August Seidlitz picking stones*



*Lydia Seidlitz in front of the first home and the big wood pile*

Hanke.

At the age of seven Lydia was sent out to work, doing light farm chores for other families. At the age of fifteen Lydia worked in the house, and or on the fields for other families as well, before getting married at the age of eighteen to August Seidlitz.

August and Lydia were very helpful in their community. August helped build the church in 1935 with many of the other men from the congregation. Lydia was also active in the Ladies Aid of the church.

Living on various farms they had five children: Caroline, Rubin, Edwin, Barry, (Arnold) and Louise.

All five children were baptized and confirmed in the first St. John's Lutheran church which August helped build. As the children grew up on the farm they gave a helping hand with the farm work, and then when they were old enough, they moved to Edmonton.

After many years of hard work on the farm, Lydia decided to leave the farm; and August, in 1960 also went to the city to live. Lydia found numerous jobs like taking care of senior citizens and working at the Army & Navy Department Store. She also worked for 16 years at the University of Alberta (U of A) hospital till her retirement in 1982.



August and Lydia were divorced in 1962 and in the spring of 1963 August sold the farm to Harry and Erna Frank, but he remained and lived on the farm until November of 1963. He then moved to the city to live with his daughter Louise and her husband Alex.



*Back Row L-R: Caroline, Lydia Front: Edwin, Barry, Louise, August and Rubin Seidlitz*

He found it very hard to sit around and do nothing, so he went and found a job at Dominion Bottling until his seventy-first birthday. August was told by the government that he could no longer work because of his age. A new rule was put in that any person of the age of sixty-five or older would not be permitted to work any longer, so he retired.

August decided to move to his eldest daughter Caroline, in Millet and stayed there until 1979, he then moved to Plain View Manor Citizens Lodge in Leduc until his passing on July 8th, 1984.

Lydia still lives in her own home which keeps her busy. Also she keeps very busy with her many different hobbies; such as bowling, ceramics, and her old time favorite crocheting.

Caroline, the eldest has her own home in Millet and her own beauty salon in Edmonton. Rubin got married to Mildred Swingen in 1960 and they have two lovely children, Debbie and Dean; they are also living in their own house in Edmonton. Edwin is still single and is working for B.C. Rail. He lives in his own house that he built on an acreage in Prince George, B.C. Barrie (Arnold) got married to Roxane Cook (Irene) in 1968 and they have three boys; Dalton, Rob, and Kevin. They are living in Calgary. Louise married Alex Libich in 1962 and have two lovely children, Wayne and Jane. They live in Edmonton across the street from Lydia Seidlitz.

## **SOCH, ALFRED and MARTHA**

*by Gladys Soch*

Alfred and Martha (nee Tober) grew up in the Hay

Lakes area. Both the Soch and Tober families were members of St. Stephens Lutheran Church. Alfred and Martha were confirmed here and were members of the Young People's Society. They were married at St. Stephens in 1935.



*Alfred and Martha Soch*

Following their marriage Alfred and Martha worked on farms in the Hay Lakes and Ellerslie areas. In 1941 they purchased a farm near Antler Lake and moved there with their sons, Richard and Reinhard. The family then attended St. John's Lutheran Church. Two daughters, Jean and Anna, were born while the family lived here. In 1949 they sold the farm and moved to Edmonton.

Martha became ill shortly after this and passed away in 1950. The family attended Trinity Lutheran Church, where the children were confirmed.

Alfred later married Charlott Gruedel (nee O'Neill), a widow with one daughter, Francis. Alfred and Charlotte have three girls, Carmen, Terry and Patricia. Alfred worked as a carpenter until he was forced to retire due to ill health in 1975. After suffering several strokes, he is now a patient in the Good Samaritan Aux. Hospital.

Richard and his wife Francis, (Melaney) live in Airdrie with their daughters, Jackie and Jodi.

Reinhard married Gladys Pawloski. They have two children, Shawna and Jason and live near Sherwood Park.

Jean and Charles Carter live in Leduc with their daughter Corrine and son Darren.

Anna is married to Belland Mallow and they live in Hinton.

Francis and Ted Kuypers live in Fox Creek. They have three children, Walter, Laurie and Kevin.

Carmen and Ken Molloy live in Edmonton and have one daughter Patrea.

Terry and Pat also live in Edmonton.

## **SPITZER FAMILY**

*by Florence Martin*

Parents: Fred Spitzer came from Russia, Albertine Buss, from Hay Lakes. Lived on the Boyce farm for 2 years, moved to the Home Place. There are six children: Florence (Len Martin) two children, one grandchild, Edmonton, Alberta; Wilfred (Edith Busse) Sherwood Park, Alberta; Walter (Yvonne Penman) four children, eight grandchildren, Sherwood Park, Alberta; Irene (Clarence Paulsen) three children, three grandchildren, Hodgeville, Saskatchewan; Donald (Carol Krine) three children, two grandchildren, Swift Current, Saskatchewan.

Fred Spitzer passed away August 21, 1937. After being a widow for 8 years, Albertine married Richard Busse, Hallonquist, Saskatchewan, on March 14, 1945. They had one daughter, Linda, married to Glen Anderson living in Tomkins, Saskatchewan. In 1966 they retired and moved to Swift Current. Richard Busse passed away in December 1978. Albertine still resides in Swift Current. On August 13, 1980 she celebrated her 80th birthday in Alberta.

Ronald Martin was christened and confirmed. His Godparents are Charlie and Emma Martin. He married Carolyn Lindberg, have a daughter. Lived in Edmonton for ten years, in 1974 moved to Sherwood Park. In July 1979 was transferred to Denver, Colorado.

Marilyn Martin was christened. Godparents are Wilfred and Edith Spitzer. She married Ray Johnson and are living in Edmonton. After living in Fultonvale for 15 years, in 1966 moved to Edmonton where we still reside, retiring in 1980.

Ed note.

Ronald and Marilyn Martin are the children of Len and Florance Martin.

## **SPITZER, WILFRED and EDITH**

*by Edith Spitzer*

Wilfred is the oldest son of Fred and Albertina Spitzer of the Fultonvale district. There are 6 children in their family: Florence, Wilfred, (Wilf) Walter (Walt), Irene, Donald and Mabel.

The family lived on a farm. The children's father passed away in 1937 as the result of an accident on the farm.

At the age of fourteen, Wilf was confirmed in the Bruderfelt Moravian Church. Later, the Zion Lutheran Church was built in the district and the family attended it. Because Wilf had lost his Father, it fell upon him to help build the church along with the other men.

Wilf attended the Fultonvale one-room school which was about three quarters of a mile through the

bush, walking or running the short distance.

In 1945 Mother, a widow, married a widower, Richard Busse of Hallonquist, Sask. and moved to a farm there, taking four of her youngest children with her. That left Wilf alone on the farm. Sister Florence was already married and in a home of her own. The absence of the rest of the family suddenly created a great emptiness, so Wilf visited with Florence frequently.

Walt returned home after a short time in Sask, to live with Wilf and both set up a dairy operation which they managed together for a few years.

The community gathered for many social activities at their place. In the summertime, there were ball games in their pasture where they had a baseball diamond. In the winter, they made a skating rink near the house, and many skaters came to enjoy it.

When Wilf went to visit his family in Sask, he met Edith Busse whose Father is Wilf's Mother's new husband. Those two, Wilf and Edith decided to get married in 1951.

As newly-weds we lived at Hallonquist for a short while, then moved to Edmonton and lived in the city. In 1957 we moved to the former Ralph Lynn farm and Wilf drove a school bus for the County.

Wilf was involved with the Fultonvale Men's Baseball team, playing a position on it and he also coached the Junior Ball team. Edith was involved with the Fultonvale Ladies Goodwill Club.

In 1959 we sold 20 acres of our land to Don and Ethel Reid. We were developing a new spot when we were beckoned to Hallonquist and in 1961 we moved back there. A few more moves took place and in 1979 we made our way back to the Edmonton area.

We are now living southeast of Sherwood Park on 40 acres, on which we keep some cattle and horses. Wilf is driving school bus again for the County after 19 years of absence. Edith is a member of the Fultonvale Ladies Goodwill Club which still meets in each others' home. The Club observed it's 50th Anniversary combined with a School and District Reunion in 1982. This was a very special time for Wilf when he met former school mates and teachers, especially his favorite Miss Bradshaw, to whom he endeared himself. He is even standing next to her on an old school picture which is very special to him. And again at the Reunion, Wilf had the privilege of being pictured with Miss Bradshaw.

We attend the Zion Evangelical Church in New Sarepta and plan to finally stay at our present location as we are sending our roots down deep here.



## SPOONER, ORVILLE and IRMA

by Irma Spooner

We never actually joined St. John's Congregation, but we were neighbors to it for years. Orville (Art) was an engineer with the American Air Transport Command and worked for the Search and Rescue division; his work dealt with ferries crossing from Alaska to the Soviet Union. The main base to the North was Cooking Lake, only a few miles from the church. Art had begun his work during the Second World War, in the summer of 1942.



*Spooner's Lodge at South Cooking Lake.*

I had been living in Edmonton with our three girls and one boy. We joined Art at the Cooking Lake airport in 1947. The City of Edmonton had asked him, after the war, to manage the seaplane base there. For me it was a veritable move to the wilderness. I had never cooked on a wood stove before. I came to manage the lodge at the airport; this made me chief cook and bottle washer, as they say. Our good friend Stuart Gillies who at that time owned the rat farm (muskrat) - which Al Oeming later bought and started the Alberta Game Farm - used to donate chickens and geese to us, since we did not raise any of our own but none of the birds ever found their way to the oven or to the kitchen table, however. Our children used to make pets out of them and gave each of them a name. Most of the birds would die of old age or perhaps by accident.

During my years at the lodge we catered to all kinds of groups: The Edmonton Gliding Club, the Chesapeake Dog Club, a parachute club and so on. We had many distinguished visitors. Art recalls Joe Louis and Bob Hope coming through. I myself remember E.P. Taylor, one of Canada's richest men, and the box of nylons that he brought me as a gift; nylons were very scarce in those days.

Actually, I am a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Edmonton. All our children were baptized there, though Lorraine, Gail and Brian were confirmed at St. John's by Pastor P. Hanneman. My

mother and I would attend some of the German services. Art is English and an Anglican and could not understand a word, so he stayed home. When English services were finally introduced, he would come occasionally. Art was born in New Liskard, Ontario. His mother was born on the Isle of Wight and his dad at Portsmouth, England. They came to this country in 1903.



*Spooner Children*

My family name was Schultz and my roots are German Lutheran, though I was born in Leningrad. My father and mother emigrated from Poland in 1924 and settled in Edmonton on arriving in Canada. Dad went to work immediately, doing what he was trained to do, cabinet-making. He made church furniture for Trinity and Grace Lutheran churches in Edmonton. We were six children in my parental family. I have two brothers and two sisters in Edmonton; one sister lives in Cleveland, Ohio.

Art and I were married in Edmonton at Faith Anglican church in 1936. We have five children: Colleen (Morrow) of Deville; Lorraine (Polkosnik) in Edmonton; Gail (Duckworth) who lives in Calgary; Brian, who married Darlene Hucul and lives in Vancouver; and Richard, who married Barbara Harvey and runs the new airport and seaplane base at Cooking Lake. We have nineteen grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

It was not always easy raising a family. Schooling turned out to be somewhat of a problem. Art had to drive the children to school each day and bring them home again as well. The distances were great and there were no buses. He would take the Madu girls along also. Colleen, our oldest daughter, attended high school at Scona (Strathcona Composite) and Victoria Composite in Edmonton. When Salisbury High (now the F.R. Haythorne School, west of Sherwood Park) was completed the rest of the family could attend there. They were able to take a bus and

that made it much easier.

Both Art and I were brought up in the Christian faith. Art remembers how the children used to have to kneel for prayer at home - his mother was very strict. Not only on Sundays would we have to worship, but each evening selections of Scripture would be read and with commentary. I recall that while still on the farm when we could not get to our Lutheran church in Camrose, my father would conduct a service in the home. He would read a sermon from the "Haus-postille"; this was a collection of "Predigten" (ceremonies) written by Martin Luther himself. Dad also played the piano quite well and would lead us in the singing of hymns.

The piano, interestingly enough, was one which Dad had rebuilt; from a piano that had been burned in a fire. Except for the steel back and some of the bass strings, he built the walnut cabinet, all the working hammers, the dampers and whatever else was needed. The piano tuner, Mr. Pepin of the firm Pepin & Son, who tuned the instrument, wanted to purchase it and for many years he was after Dad to sell the piano because of its exceptional tone. However, after suffering four crop failures due to hail and drought -- we were living at Ohaten at the time -- we lost this family treasure. Dad had to trade the piano, in lieu of cash, for the seed grain that we had to purchase each spring.

Dad, as were all his brothers and cousins in the old country, was a fairly accomplished musician. Every boy in the family was trained to play an instrument. When Dad was inducted into the Russian army -- he lived in the part of Poland that was under Russian domination -- he was put into the royal band of the Czar's personal bodyguard. Among the family memorabilia, we still have a pocket watch and a big coffee mug which had been presented to the members of the bodyguard by the Czar.

We still live in the Cooking Lake area, close to St. John's Church and closer to the airport. Art operated the seaplane base until 1980 when the Alberta Government took it over for purpose of upgrading it. It hurt badly to see them demolish the lodge. Each stone of the fireplace had been so carefully laid. Art still works at the new float-plane base located across the road to the west of the old facilities. However, just this year (1984) I quit my job as a cook at the Misericordia Hospital.

We sense God's goodness to us in many ways. We are blessed with healthy children who visit us regularly and who are all doing well. Certainly we have had our share of trouble and sorrow, but not more than the Lord has given us strength to bear. In tears and in laughter he has been our Shepherd; he

has both comforted and guided us. I can not imagine life without God, and in Him, has been, and still is, our hope and trust.

## **STEIN, GEORG and ANNA**

*by Anna Stein*

Georg and Anna M. Stein were both born in a small town in Hungary called Izmeny in the Province of Tolna. Georg and Anna were baptized in the village church and Georg was confirmed there. Anna was confirmed in Ehrenstein, Germany.

Both our parents farmed for a living and went through a great deal of hardship during and after the war. Georg's Father never returned from the war and was listed as missing, his Mother passed away in 1965 in Ehrenstein, Germany. Anna's parents are retired and live in Burlington, Ontario.

Both families were deported from Hungary to East Germany and at different times both families fled from the east block to the west. After going through several camps, both families were assigned to a small town called Ehrenstein in southern Germany. Georg apprenticed in town and Anna went to school.

They joined the only Protestant church in the area called Evangelische Kirchengemeinde-Klingenstein. Anna was active in the youth group and Georg joined the band.

In 1953 Anna's family emigrated to Canada and settled in Montreal, Quebec. Georg and his brother, Henry, followed a few months later. In 1957 Georg and Anna went back to Germany to get married in the same church both had attended, in a double wedding ceremony on March 16th, 1957 with Georg's youngest brother August and his bride.

In Montreal Georg worked for a miscellaneous metal shop and Anna worked for the Bank of Montreal as a secretary.

Tammy Diana was born in 1965 and Terry-Olinda in 1966.

In 1967 Georg was transferred to Windsor, Ontario, where we stayed for two and a half years. In 1970 we were transferred to Dundas, Ontario, and in 1977 moved to Sherwood Park.

Anna called different churches to enroll Tammy and Terry in confirmation class. Pastor Pudrycki invited us to come to St. John's Lutheran Church. We were well received and felt the friendliness of the people in the congregation and Pastor. We became members; Tammy and Terry were confirmed in 1980.

Both Tammy and Terry attended Concordia Lutheran College in Edmonton for three years of High School (grade ten to twelve).

With the help of the people in this congregation Georg and Anna celebrated their silver anniversary in



1982.

## STUCKE, HEINRICH and NATALIE

*by Elly and Kelvin Hirsch*

Heinrich Stucke was born July 9, 1895 in Lodz Piotrkow, Poland. His parents, Jacob and Emilia (Lenz), were of German descent and had five other children. They were Theodore, Edmund, Christopher, Martha, and Paula. As a young boy Heinrich moved with his parents from Poland to East Prussia (Ostpreussen) and then to (sometimes referred to as Courland,) Latvia. His parents did not own any land themselves and thus had to work for the German Counts and Earls. There he, with the other children of the labourers, were taught by special teachers from Germany. He learned quickly and loved reading so much, that he would do so even while herding cattle. He continued to be an avid reader all his life enjoying novels, books of history, philosophy and especially the Bible. He was also able to learn to speak four languages. In his spare time he became a very good swimmer; often going out into the Baltic Sea.



1950 - The Stucke Family. Standing: Lydia, Heinz and Elly Seated: Lotty, Heinrich and Natalie

Heinrich was confirmed on June 24, 1910, in the Neuhausenchen Evangelische Kirche (Lutheran Church). He then learned the shoe-making trade and worked at this for a short time. However, after his father died from pneumonia he decided to go and work with his brothers in the coal and iron mines of Latvia as well as at Konigsberg. Heinrich then had to serve in the army during the First World War, a time of many experiences. A life long reminder of the war was his loss of hearing in one ear due to an exploding shell that fell very near him. This time period also saw the death of his mother, leaving the Stucke children without parents. When the war ended he

returned to the mines and during his holidays he would travel to Hanover, Germany, to visit his favorite aunt and uncle, Wanda and Otto Lenz. It was on one of these visits that he met his future wife, Natalie Werner, and now had two reasons to go to Hanover.

Natalie, also of German ancestry, was born July 25, 1895, to Adolf and Luise (Grams) Werner in Augustow (near Tumin) in Wolhynia, Ukraine. She was the fourth oldest of twelve children, however, only two brothers and two sisters survived past childhood. They were: Wanda (September 5, 1901); Daniel (September 9, 1906); Helen (July 15, 1910); and Bernard (October 2, 1914). The others died of diptheria and some of the other diseases that were frequent at the time.

Natalie's mother and father were very active in the Lutheran Church. Her mother sang in the choir and was often requested to sing solos for weddings. Her father was a member of the church council for many years. He often served as a counselor and mediator in family disputes. Natalie lived with her parents in Augustow and Aleksandrowka, Wolhynia. She was confirmed on March 28, 1910, in Nichailowse, Wolhynia. Around this time her one aunt and two uncles had left Europe to settle in the Chicago area of the United States. Urged by relatives to do likewise the Werners wanted to move but Natalie's mother was afraid to cross the ocean, so they did not. Unfortunately, the outbreak of World War One forced the family to move anyway, but not to as desirable an area. All the German people living near the border on Russian territory were moved by the authorities into the heart of Russia so that the advancing German army would not receive any help from the German settlers.



1944 - Natalie Stucke

Natalie's family had to leave all their cattle and belongings behind and only had time to grab a few clothes and a little food. They were taken 600 miles by wagons to Kharkov and by cattle train to Ekaterinoslav, where they joined other German people. Here the refugees lived in mud houses and worked as farm labourers for the rich land Barons. Natalie was given a job as the Baroness' personal maid. After three years there, they were allowed to return to their own land in Wolhynia. However, when they arrived at their once thriving farm, they were heartbroken.

The war had destroyed their home and the land had been dug up for trenches and graves. So they re-boarded the cattle train and went on to Luneburger-Heide, near Hanover, in Germany. They again had to work for the wealthier land owners; with Natalie as a house maid. After a year they moved closer to some relatives to the town of Goslar, in the Hartz mountain area. Natalie worked for a short time in a clothing factory but when her mother passed away in 1920 (at age 49) she returned to take over the family responsibilities. A year later she met Heinrich Stucke and their courtship had begun.

On May 23, 1922, Heinrich Stucke and Natalie Werner were married in the town of Weddingen, near Goslar, Germany. For nearly two years they shared the same house as the Werner family. During that time Natalie gave birth to their son, Heinz, on July 9, 1923.

They also decided that they wanted to emigrate to Canada and so they wrote to Natalie's Godfather, Uncle Samuel Grams, who lived near Edmonton. He immediately sent them the money needed to pay the fare but it was not until April, 1924, that they were finally granted their emigration papers. Upon receiving their papers, they had only three days to get prepared for their long journey. They packed some clothes and lots of diaper material but had to leave all of their wedding gifts behind. Traveling to Hamburg where they boarded a small ship that took them to England, there transferring to a larger ship to continue their voyage across the Atlantic Ocean which took nine days.

During the trip Natalie became very sick. They also came very close to losing baby Heinz, who was torn from Natalie's arms and almost trampled by a stampede of people rushing for food at meal time. By the time Heinz was rescued he was unconscious but he was not injured badly and recovered quite quickly. After this experience all the women on the ship with young children were allowed to eat first.

Upon their arrival in Halifax, N.S. Heinrich and Natalie with baby Heinz boarded the train for the

long westward trip through Winnipeg to Edmonton. They were met by their cousin, Emil Grams, who took them to the home of Samuel and Pauline Grams where they lived for a few months.

About two months after getting to Edmonton both Heinrich and Natalie found work with farmers in the Nisku area. Natalie cooked and cleaned for a bachelor farmer, but found it very difficult when she had to milk the cows by hand, without the shelter of a barn.



*1944 - Heinrich Stucke*

In the fall of 1924, they were able to rent some buildings close to the Lutheran Church in Ellerslie where they began attending services. At that time they received a cow from cousins, William and Emilia Kadatz; as well as one from Uncle Samuel and Aunt Pauline Grams, so were now able to have fresh milk every day.

Then in the spring of 1925 they moved to the Wimbeldon area, near Looma, to a farm that they rented for three years. They cleared land, raised cattle and pigs. In 1926, there was a happy reunion, when Natalie's family; of Adolf, Wanda, Daniel, Helen and Bernard came to Canada. The whole family stayed with Heinrich and Natalie until they began to find work with some neighbouring farmers.

During the three year stay in Wimbeldon, Natalie, with the help of a mid-wife, gave birth to a daughter, Lydia, on May 30, 1925 and Elly, on December 15, 1926. Both were baptized at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Ellerslie.

By that time there was a small group of Lutherans meeting in the Wimbeldon School, during the Lenten season on Friday evenings with services being held by Pastor R. Krisch. He was an interesting fellow who often had supper with the Stucke family. After one such supper, in the spring of 1927, Pastor Krisch,



Heinrich, Natalie, and Daniel Werner got into the sleigh to go to the service. Along the way Heinrich's team got too close to the edge of the road and the sleigh box tipped into the icy water in the ditch with Natalie trapped underneath. The Pastor and Daniel both jumped into the water and lifted the box allowing her to escape. They then returned home to get some dry clothes. The Pastor, with a suit borrowed from Daniel, went on to conduct the service as usual. The Pastor always remembered that event and would often tell Natalie that she had been baptized again, and he did remember to return the borrowed suit to Daniel after some months.

Late one evening Heinrich came home from working at a neighbour's place and he noticed a person by the corner of the house. When he got closer it looked to him like his brother Edmund, from Germany. So Heinrich quickly put the horses away and ran into the house and asked Natalie where Edmund was. She replied that no one had been there. A week later they received word that Edmund had died in a mining accident on exactly the same day and hour, that Heinrich had this extrasensory perception.

In the spring of 1928, Heinrich, Natalie and family, moved to the Ardrossan area, after making a down payment on a 126 acre farm that had both a house and a barn. It was located on the south shore of Half Moon Lake and it was there that Natalie gave birth to their third daughter, Lotty, on April 12, 1930, with Heinrich performing the act as a midwife. Soon they sought the fellowship of other Christians in the area and joined in to help organize St. John's Lutheran Church in Ardrossan. They were regular attendees at services, which were held in homes and the Garden School until the first church was built in 1936. Lotty was baptized in the Renas' home by Pastor Freitag. Natalie's father, Adolf, who continued to make his home with the Stuckes, also attended church services and was the oldest member of the congregation for many years.

Living through the depression years meant many hardships for the Stucke family but somehow they always had enough to eat. Heinrich, Adolf and Natalie, worked hard as they grubbed trees, pulled stumps and broke approximately 50 acres of land with horses. Unfortunately, the times were so bad that they could not even make the interest payments on the land and so, in 1934, signed a "quit" claim and left the farm. They then put money down on a quarter section of land - just south and across the road, that was covered completely with bush. Logs were hauled out of the bush, which Adolf hewed and later used to build barns and granaries. To fill the cracks in the buildings, moss had to be stuffed

between the logs and for the first summer only tar paper and cloths covered the spaces for windows and doors. They also worked very hard and dug a well completely by hand, which luckily yielded very good water. Again they cleared land for cultivation.

Along with the hard times, there were many good ones. Neighbours often would come and visit the Stuckes, getting a haircut or having their shoes mended by Heinrich, while Natalie prepared coffee and lunch. One neighbour gave Heinrich some lambs and he began raising them to produce wool, however shearing the sheep took many tries before it was mastered. Heinrich was also called upon by many people to search for water well sites, which he did using his 'y' shaped willow switch. He also was often asked to be the local veterinarian, a talent that he later passed on to his son-in-law, Clarence Hirsch. Natalie was also kept busy with milking cows, making butter and later, shipping cream. This cream was put into a five gallon can and hung in the well to keep it cool until the cream truck came to pick it up. She looked after many chickens and in later years took the eggs to the Ardrossan store once a week to be sold at which time she would also purchase groceries. She would use the scrub board to wash many clothes for her family as well as for her brothers, Daniel and Bernard, whenever they came home during the winter months. The Stuckes were also able to cut and stack many tonnes of hay on adjoining meadows, rented each summer. This hay was hauled in winter, by horses and sleigh to Edmonton where it was sold. Sometimes it was so cold on these trips that Heinrich had to walk behind the rack, for many miles, simply to keep warm.

The four Stucke children attended the Douglas School which was one mile away from the farm. However, the children were not the only students in the family since Heinrich also took English classes in the evenings. Natalie was not able to spend the time to learn formal English because she often had too much work to do. She was therefore very grateful that the worship services at St. John's were held in German because it gave them special meaning.

The Stuckes were very active in the congregational life of St. John's, helping to build both the first and second church. Natalie is a charter member and devoted participant in the Ladies Aid which began in 1941 and Heinrich was the secretary-treasurer at the church for many years. The Stuckes also brought their children to church regularly and over the years they were all confirmed at St. John's by Pastor H. Leutkehoelter.

In April 1952, Heinrich and Natalie decided to leave the farm and move to Edmonton. They bought

a house in the city with money they received from their auction sale, but always retained in their hearts many memories of the farm. Natalie's father, Adolf, continued to live with them in the city until he passed away in 1955 at the age of 90. He was laid to rest at St. John's church cemetery. The Stuckes continued to worship at St. John's Church, even though they were now many miles away. In the city, Heinrich worked as a maintenance man for the Alberta Government at the Land Titles Office until he retired at age 70. He then pursued one of his favorite hobbies, namely painting pictures. When the second church was dedicated in 1964, Heinrich did a special painting of Golgotha for the new church office. He continued to paint many pictures and especially enjoyed painting mountain scenes.

In May 1972, Heinrich and Natalie celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at Hazeldean Community Hall with their children, grandchildren, relatives and many friends. The St. John's choir sang during the program and the Stuckes received a memorable gift from the church. Then, six weeks later, a sad tragedy occurred when Heinrich and Natalie's son, Heinz, lost his life in a farming accident. After that, other sad events took place as two of their sons-in-law died of heart attacks. Heinrich also suffered from a weak heart the last few years of his life and passed away on Easter Monday in April 1976 at the age of 80 years. He was also laid to rest in the St. John's church cemetery. Heinrich enjoyed his life in Canada but his one regret was that after leaving Europe, he was never able to see any of his brothers or sisters again.



*1973 - The Stucke Family - Standing: Clarence and Lotty Kartz, Clarence and Elly Hirsch, Logy and Lydia Benson, Heinz and Doris Stucke Seated: Heinrich and Natalie*

At the age of 90, Natalie has continued to live in her own home in Edmonton with the help of her

family. She suffers from severe angina but she still manages to attend church and Ladies Aid meetings upon occasion. She reads her Bible a little each day even though her eyesight is failing. She especially enjoys having visitors and always insists on serving a cup of coffee. The pride and joy of her life now are her 12 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren, and she is always thankful to God for the many blessings she has received throughout the years.

The Stucke family consisted of Heinrich, Natalie, one son and three daughters. Their son, Heinz, (Henry Jr.) married Doris Hirsch in July 1949 and they had two children, Dennis and Joanne; Lydia married Logy Benson on August 7, 1950 and they had four children, Susan, Bernie, Shirley, and Bruce. Logy passed away February 4, 1976; Elly married Clarence Hirsch August 26, 1948 and they had three children, Randall, Rosanne, and Kelvin; Lotty married Clarence Kartz October 30, 1947 and they had three children, Melrose, Melvin, and Marianne. Clarence passed away October 29, 1978.

The Stucke history is one of many stories and events but only a few have been told here. The element that is common and consistent throughout both the lives of Heinrich and Natalie was their faith in, and love of God. This was expressed through love and kind actions toward all people that they met and now this lifestyle continues on in their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

## **SWONEK, LEONARD and ELSIE**

*by L. Swonek*

Julius and Olga Swonek with three small children arrived in Leduc, Alberta, Canada from Schnick, Russia (today it is in Poland) in July, 1910. Wm. Falkenberg was in charge of immigration in that district at that time and billeted them in a log house that leaked for days after a rain.

Dad, who had lived on the land in the old country, worked about a year in the Leduc district; then moved to Edmonton where he started working for Swifts Canadian Packer Co. Ltd. and soon after started building his own home on 132 Ave. and 108 St. At that time the area was the outskirts of Edmonton.

That was also my birthplace. In the year 1912, our family became members at St. John's Lutheran Church, Edmonton, located on the corner of 108 Ave. and 96 St. I was baptized and confirmed at St. John's - confirmation by Rev. George Juttner - and attended young peoples until I moved to the farm in 1929. I had all my schooling at H.A. Gray School in Edmonton.

September, 1929 was the beginning of the





*L-R Irving, Norman, Kenneth, Elsie and Leonard Swonek*

Depression which led to the "hungry thirty's." There were no jobs to be had, especially for the young people. We lived outside of town doing some farming. We had a small dairy so we had some experience in farming. Brother Dan and myself decided on a partnership with a little help from our parents, so we started farming on my present location and on Dec. 1929 we built a little house. Our closest neighbor was the Stucke family two and a half miles away. Mr. H. Stucke helped us build and we became very good friends. They invited us to go to church with them. That was the beginning of my involvement with the church. The first time I attended a service it was held in a little house located on the farm where Eric Felske lives. In the year 1930, Rev. K. Freitag was the minister; later as more people joined they moved to the Garden Schoolhouse. Rev. H. Luetkehoelter was the next minister - he later organized the St. John's congregation. It was under his leadership that the congregation in 1935 made plans for a church. The next year the members got busy cutting logs and hauled them to one location. We hired a little saw mill and cut rough lumber and hauled with horse and wagon or sleigh to the present site, where the first church was built. The labor was all gratis except the lead carpenter got paid.

In 1943, I got married to Elsie Werner of the Ellerslie district, daughter of Otto and Holdine Werner. Her family were members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Ellerslie. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Paul's. She was confirmed by Rev. R. Krisch and was a member of the Young Peoples League until her marriage when she left the district. She had all her education at Sandy Lake school.

After our marriage we continued farming at our present location. We had three sons; Irving, our first born was baptized by Rev. H. Luetkehoelter;



*June 24, 1943 - Leonard and Elsie Swonek*



*1984 - Swonek family - Back Row L-R: Kenneth, Irving, Leonard, Norman Front: Diane, Erna, Elsie, Ellen*

Norman and Kenneth both were baptized by Rev. P. Hanneman; all three were confirmed by Rev. P. Hanneman at St. John's Church Ardrossan.

Elsie joined Ladies Aid in 1950 and was a member until 1983. We got more involved in church affairs as I was on the church council from 1950 to 1962.

I was one of the original Board of Directors who set up and organized the Garden Rural Electrification Association. In early 1953 we started with the help of the government and Calgary Power. The Social Credit Party was in power at that time. They loaned the R.E.A. members money at 3.5 percent interest from 10 to 25 years to repay it. The Board of Directors had to do all the work of clearing the bush and getting easements to build the lines. In November 1953 the first lines were energized. In 1954 electricity was installed in the church and parsonage. It was a big improvement not only to the church but to the whole district. It attracted new settlers.

I also helped to build the new church and con-

tinued living in the district and was a pioneer in the life of the congregation. I have lived in the district for over 50 years, farming on the same location.

## **TRAWNY, GUSTAV and AUGUSTA**

*by Elsie Ceretzke*

Gustav Trawny was born in Poland in the year 1885.

Augusta Trawny (Job) was born in Wolhynia, Russia, in the year 1888. Both Gustav and Augusta were of German descent.

Four children; Henry, Willie, Elsie and Hilda were all born in Germany. By the year 1927, the children ranged from ages of four to fourteen.

During the last seven years before emigrating to Canada, the family lived in Dortmund, Germany. During these seven years (1920-1927) Gustav worked in a factory.

Unfortunately, things looked quite hopeless in 1924. Gustav, along with thousands of other factory workers, was laid off from his job. The Depression was to blame for this. At this time there was hardly enough food on the table for the family.

After Gustav got his job back, he decided that the family should emigrate to Canada as soon as possible. There wasn't anything to look forward to in Germany.

By 1927 he had saved enough money for himself to go to Canada. In April of the same year he sent for the rest of his family to join him in Canada.

It took nearly three weeks for the complete trip. After leaving Dortmund there was a three day wait at Bremerhafen before boarding the ship. After they boarded the ship, they sailed for 10 days until reaching Halifax. The train ride from Halifax to Edmonton took over five days. We were financed by mother's two cousins, Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Job and Mr. and Mrs. Ferdinand Vogel both of Edmonton.



*1924 - Gus Trawny Family. Taken in Germany 2 or 3 years before they came to Canada L-R: Henry, Willie, Gus, Hilda, Elsie, Augusta*

After they arrived in Edmonton they stayed for two weeks with mother's cousins. We were fortunate enough to get a place rented from August Neuman in Bruderfeld (now Millwoods). Father had also worked for Mr. Neuman nearly all winter to make a few dollars.

In the spring of 1928 we left Mr. Neuman's place and moved to a farm, which we rented in Looma, known now as the Bill Bittner farm. During the eight years we lived there, two girls were born into the Trawny family, Frieda and Clara. Our parents and the older children knew that life in Canada was all work and no play. During the Depression, nobody could make much money, but with all of us working hard and having a big garden; kept us alive and well. After we had broke about 75 acres of land on the place, the farm was sold and our parents had to look for another place to live. In the spring of 1936 they moved to Ardrossan, by that time I had been married for a few months. My father and mother still had three daughters, Hilda, Frieda and Clara living at home. By this time my parents had bought the new place in Ardrossan, no more renting, but they had to start all over again.

Not too long after my parents had settled in Ardrossan, the first St. John's Lutheran Church was built, which they helped to construct. They also were members until they retired and moved to Josephburg in 1952.

The Trawny family of October 1984:

Father Gustav Trawny - Deceased 1956

Mother Augusta Trawny - Deceased 1971

Henry Trawny living in Nebraska, U.S.A. Retired (Pastor)

Willie Trawny living in Edmonton, Alberta, Retired

Elsie (Mrs. Gus Ceretzke) Retired living in Sherwood Park

Hilda - Deceased in 1975

Frieda - Deceased in 1975

Clara (Mrs. Gus Domke) living in Ardrossan on home place.

## **WENDLAND, EMIL**

*by J. Birkholz*

Gottlieb Wendland was a farmer in Krogulec Kreis Nieschawa, Poland. He was married to a Lentz daughter and had several children; Julius, Emil, Lydia, Johan, Rudolf and Wanda. (I do not remember the rest.)

Emil was baptized and confirmed in Augsburg Lutheran Church in Sampilno, Poland by Pastor Alexander Bierschenk. He attended a one room school, grades one to six, which was a mile away, in a village named Bycz. His teacher's name was Waade.





*Clearing land at the Birkholz place. Julius with the horses and Emil Wendland with the axe.*

Emil emigrated to Canada in May of 1930 on a steamship and arrived by train in Edmonton on May 26, 1930 and was employed by surrounding farmers in Bretona, Colchester and Ellerslie districts, mostly for Fred Kadatz.

In 1932 Emil moved to the Ardrossan district, and bought a quarter section 1 mile south, 3/4 mile east from our church and cleared thirty acres of bush, but could not make payments. Later in 1939 he bought another quarter section (S.E. 26-52-22) and farmed there for sixteen years until December of 1955. Emil was a very active member in St. John's Lutheran Church, Ardrossan.



*Emil Wendland*

In 1956 Emil moved to Mr. and Mrs. August Seidlitz near Cooking Lake for room and board. From there he moved to the Uncas district. In 1964 he bought a quarter section near Bruderheim and farmed there until 1976. In 1977 he bought a house in Lamont. In February, 1978 he had a stroke and for many months was a patient in Lamont Hospital. In 1982 Emil was transferred to Oliver where he is still residing.

## **WERNER, (1) ADOLF**

*by Wanda Ceretzke*

Adolf Werner was born in Poland in May, 1902. He emigrated to Edmonton, Alberta on May 10, 1928.

Adolf worked in Edmonton as a casual laborer for a number of years before commencing work with the CPR railroad. Following this he was employed as a coal miner in Drumheller, Alberta.

In 1932, Adolf purchased a farm in the Ardrossan area. In the 1950's he bought a 1/2 section of land in Barrhead for the sum of \$320. After devoting a few years to farming, Adolf rented out his land and went back to work on the railroad until his retirement. He then moved into a Senior Citizens Home where he presently resides.

## **WERNER, ADOLF (2) and LUISE**

*by Elly Hirsch*

Adolf Werner was born on April 2, 1865 in Janowka, District of Novodwork, Wladimir-Wolynski, Wolhynia. His parents, Friedrich and Rosine (Kismann) Werner, were German farmers in this area which is presently part of the Ukraine. Adolf's older brother, Friedrich, lived his whole life in Wolhynia as a farmer and a shoemaker. He had two other brothers, John and Samuel, as well as sister Mary; all left Wolhynia to make their homes in the Chicago area of the United States.

Very little is known about Adolf's childhood. As a young man at the age of 15 Adolf went to work in the forest industry near the Black Sea. This winter job taught him how to skillfully use a broad axe in order to hew logs, which would be used for building houses. During the rest of the year Adolf would stay with his parents and help them on the farm. This lifestyle continued until Adolf's marriage to Luise Grams on February 6, 1890. The wedding was officiated by Pastor G. Kerm and occurred in the Russian Evangelical Lutheran Church, Wolhynia.



*1950 - Standing: Dan Werner Seated: Wanda Platzke, Adolf Werner, and Natalie Stucke*

Luise was born in 1871 to George and Justine (nee Friedrich) Grams. She had a number of brothers and sisters who emigrated to various parts of Canada. Her one brother Samuel and his wife Pauline, settled in the Ellerslie area of Alberta. This family was very important in the later emigration of Adolf and family to the Edmonton area. Luise was a very good singer and was often invited to sing solos for church services and weddings. She also was a fine seamstress, which proved to be a useful asset for a good homemaker, which she was.

Adolf and Luise farmed in Augustow, Wolhynia for the first years of their marriage. The land they owned was very fertile and produced well under Adolf's special care, so well that neighbours often wanted to buy it. Adolf refused to sell their farm for many years but one afternoon at a local gathering his price was met and the farm was surprisingly sold. Liking the Augustow area the Werners moved to another farm just 15 miles south, where they once again built a home, that was always open to those in need.

In the first twenty-four years of their marriage, Adolf and Luise had a total of twelve children. The first two died in infancy, the following born to them were; Rudolf (1892), Natalie (1895), Pauline (1897), Manuel (1899), Wanda (1901), Emelia (1903), Daniel (1906), Gustav (1908), Helen (1910) and Bernard (1914). Four of these ten children died when the diptheria epidemic spread through out the community and one died of appendicitis. The other five children survived the numerous childhood diseases of the time and all later moved to Canada.

Natalie, was born July 25, 1895 and was married to Heinrich Stucke in Weddingen, Germany. They had four children, Heinz, Lydia, Elly and Lotty. Heinrich and Natalie spent most of their pioneer years in the Ardrossan area.

Wanda, was born on September 5, 1901 and married Leonard Platzke at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Ellerslie. There were four children in their family, Freda, Walter, Bernard, Lillian.

Daniel, born September 9, 1906, was single and farmed in the Ardrossan area until his death on December 29, 1981.

Helen was born July 15, 1910 and married Karl Kismann. They settled in Sudbury, Ontario where they had four children, Walter, Carl, Ernest and Kenneth.

Bernard, was born October 2, 1914 and married Alma Neuman. They had two children, Donald and Dennis and made their home in Vancouver, B.C.

Prior to World War 1 the lifestyle for Adolf and Luise had been very stable. They did have one chance

to leave Wolhynia, when Adolf's brother John made a special trip from Chicago and tried to persuade them to emigrate to the U.S. However, Luise was very frightened of the voyage across the ocean and so John Werner returned to the U.S. taking with him his widowed mother, Rosine, sadly leaving Adolf, Luise and family in Wolhynia. The decision not to move to the U.S. may have been different had they known the hardships that were ahead during W.W.1. With the outbreak of the war between Russia and Germany, the Russian authorities feared that the German settlers in their country would harbour the advancing German army. Thus, Adolf and his family, like many others, were forced onto waiting wagons with only a few clothes and a little food. They were taken from their farms and homes, many of them had no chance to gain access to their savings in the banks and their cattle, horses and geese were simply turned loose into the grain fields. Adolf was a little better off than some because he kept all his money in a box at home and not in a bank so he was able to grab this before they left.



*1946 - Adolph Werner*

The German settlers were evacuated to Kharkov, which was over 600 miles away, or even further into Siberia. They travelled by wagon for the most part, often changing to other waiting wagons along the way. It was during one of these transfers that Luise and Baby Bernard became separated from the rest of the family and it was a number of days later when they finally met again. By this time both Luise and Bernard were very sick since their wagon was without food. Fortunately they recovered and continued on the trek. After reaching Kharkov, Adolf and family were allowed to take the cattle train, along with seven other families, to Ekaterinoslov, Russia. Here the refugees lived in mudhouses, working for the rich Land Barons during the summer months. During the



winter Adolf and his oldest daughter, Natalie cut wood and sold it, in an attempt to raise some extra money. Fortunately for Adolf and family, they only had to stay in Ekaterinoslov until 1918 at which time they were allowed to return to their own farm, at Augustow.

The Werner family was looking forward to re-establishing their home as they travelled back to Wolhynia on the cattle train. However, their hopes were dashed as they found their farm devastated and the buildings in ruins. The fields had been dug up for graves, their house had been used by the soldiers for firewood and, of course, all the livestock was gone. The sight sickened Luise to the point that she refused to stay there even for a single night. So the family quickly re-boarded the cattle train, but this time they travelled through Hanover to Luneburger - Heide, Germany. There they were met by a public welfare worker (Fuhrsorger) who provided them with housing and work for another Land Baron. They stayed in this area for only one year then they moved to the town of Goslar, where the family lived for the next six years.

During that time two important events occurred. First, in 1920 Luise at the age of 49 years passed away, leaving Adolf to care for five children. The second event occurred in 1922 when Natalie married Heinrich Stucke and very soon after, the newlyweds emigrated to Canada. This was a big move for Natalie since she was concerned about the welfare of her family. However, her Father promised that he would bring the rest of the family to Canada as soon as they could be sponsored. Hearing this, Adolf's brothers in the U.S. sent money for his fare while other relatives in the Edmonton area paid for the children's voyage. So in 1926 Adolf and his family, Wanda, Daniel, Helen and Bernard, emigrated to Canada, settling in the Edmonton area.

At first the whole family lived with Natalie and Heinrich in the Looma area and Adolf was extremely happy to be re-united with his brother-in-law Samuel Grams and his family who lived nearby in Ellerslie. The friendship between the two families was so close that Bernard, then twelve years old, stayed with the Grams family while he attended the Sandy Lake school. At this time the other family members looked for work with local farmers and relatives hoping to make some money to help pay off their fares. This caused the Werner family to start to spread out and so when Natalie and Heinrich moved to the Ardrossan area in 1928 Adolf decided to make his home with them.

Adolf's expertise with an axe was a valuable asset at this time as he helped Heinrich and Natalie clear

brush for farmland and hew logs for the house and barns. Later when Wanda and her husband Leonard Platzke purchased a farm only one-quarter mile away, Adolf again helped clear their land and hewed the logs for their buildings. When Daniel bought a farm north of St. John's Lutheran Church, Adolf grubbed trees, picked stones and even burned bush piles. Again he helped with the log buildings.

Throughout Adolf's life he was a man who was always devoted to both his family and the church. One very special event for him was when his brother Samuel and his wife, came from Chicago to visit him. It was a tearful re-union after so many years of separation.

In the same way Adolf always enjoyed helping Natalie and Heinrich by rocking the cradle, churning butter and turning the cream separator. He also would help by drawing the water bucket from the deep well and, of course, by splitting logs for firewood.



1969 - The Werner Family Dan Werner, Natalie Stucke, Wanda Platzke, Helen Kisman and Ben Werner

Adolf would also spend time each day to do some Bible-reading and he greatly enjoyed the services at St. John's Lutheran Church, which were all in the German language. Adolf had trouble learning English because of his age and this made the congregation at St. John's much more significant to him. Sunday mornings he would always be ready to go to church; in Summer by wagon; in Winter by sleigh, or later by car. One of the most memorable occasions for him was when the congregation surprised him for his 87th birthday with a special celebration.

Adolf was a man who enjoyed helping others. After living on the farm all his life, he found it difficult to move into the city with Heinrich and Natalie in 1952. With very little to do he often felt

lost making the last few years of his life difficult to adjust.

Adolf passed away in 1955 at the age of 90 and is buried in St. John's Lutheran Church (Ardrossan) Cemetery. His kind and patient character, his love of family and friends, and his devotion to God, will always be remembered by those who knew and loved him.

## **WIDMANN, EWALD and LEOKADIA**

*by Rena Jait, Sheila Walsh and Erna Adam*

Ewald Widmann, born June 6, 1910 in Werowka, Wolhynia USSR, and his wife, Leokadia (nee Brokopp) born November 26, 1908 in Poland, emigrated to Canada in 1948. On their arrival they came to be residents of the Bashaw, Alberta area, where they attended St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Four years later they moved to the Ardrossan area and the St. John's Lutheran Church parish. The Widmann family consisted of three daughters: Erna, Rena, and Sheila.



*1956 - Widmann family: Rena, Leokadia, Ewald, Erna Front: Sheila*

Ewald Widmann was born in Russia, of German-Swedish parents. The Widmann family moved to Poland while Ewald was still a child, where he grew up and married Leokadia Brokopp in 1934. Leokadia had been born in Poland, to parents of German descent. Their marriage was blessed at that time, with two daughters, Erna and Rena.

With the threat of the Russian invasion of Poland in 1944, Leokadia and the girls were forced to flee to Germany alone. Meanwhile, Ewald was serving in the German army, and was separated from his family for most of the war.

The family was reunited after the war with the help of the International Red Cross. As soon as arrangements could be made they emigrated to

Bashaw, Alberta where Leokadia's brothers and sister farmed. While there, a third daughter, Sheila, was born.



*1948 - L to R: Rena, Erna Widmann with cousins Freda, Freddy & Clarence Brokopp in Bashaw One of the first pictures in Canada*

In the spring of 1952, with the help of Ed Brudneski (a cousin by his marriage to Natalie Loeske, and the father of Malita Burton, currently a community member), the Widmanns moved to the Ardrossan area near South Cooking Lake and settled into their new home on the Loggie Benson farm. Upon their arrival they were befriended by their neighbors, Len and Elsie Swonek, who assisted in the "moving in", and introduced them to the community. Soon thereafter, representatives of the St. John's congregation, Augusta and Gustav Adam, and Christina and Wilhelm Felske stopped by to encourage the family's participation in Church activities.

Leokadia and Ewald lived in this community for eight years. During this time, Erna and Rena were confirmed by Pastor P. Hanneman, afterwards becoming Sunday School teachers at St. John's. Rena assisted in teaching confirmation classes as well. The girls also sang in the choir and helped organize youth group activities. Ewald served on the Parish Council, and Leokadia was a member of the Ladies Aid.

An event took place during this time to which the family gave great importance; Ewald, Leokadia, Erna, and Rena officially became citizens of Canada!

In 1957, Erna married Arthur Adam (son of Gustav and Augusta Adam, long standing members of the parish). They raised four children. Lana married Bernard Belisle of Edmonton. They have two children, Leanne and Bryan. Gary married Joan, daughter of Clarence and Mary Busenius of Ar-



drossan. Gary and Joan live in Edmonton, but attend St. John's. Dale is a student at Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (N.A.I.T.) in Edmonton, and attends St. John's as well. Dwayne, of Meeting Creek, is married to Darlene Sproule of Bashaw. Erna and Art now reside in Meeting Creek, where they run a mixed farming operation, and attend Bethany Lutheran Church.

In 1959, Ewald and Leokadia celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. In the fall of 1959 the farm was sold to Emil and Clarence Jait. In the spring of 1960, Ewald, Leokadia, and Sheila ventured out to the Okanagan for four months, then resettled on a farm in the Bashaw area, where they resided until Ewald's death in March of 1963. Shortly thereafter Leokadia and Sheila moved to Edmonton.

In July of 1974 Sheila married Dr. G. Brian Walsh of Edmonton; they reside at New Sarepta, Alberta

with their children David and Diane.

After a lengthy illness, Leokadia died in Edmonton in November, 1975.

In January of 1962 Rena married Emil Jait and returned to this community from Edmonton, where she had been living and working since her graduation in 1960. They became the parents of two children, Randall and Jo-Anne, both of whom are still living at home. Emil and Rena operate the Jay-Four Rainbow Ranch.

Through war and turmoil of immigration, the Widmann family endured with faith, and love of God. Drawing strength through prayer and attending Church, never faltering in their dependence on the Lord for his blessings. We are truly thankful for the many freedoms that we are able to enjoy in this great country.

# Appendix

## BAPTISMS

\* Recorded at Trinity Lutheran Church, Edmonton

+ Recorded at Zion Lutheran Church, Fultonvale

**1928**

\* Alice Beck

**1929**

\* Anna Lueders

\* Gustav Alfred Beck

**1930**

\* Herbert Anders

\* Lotti Frieda Stucke

\* Clarence Arthur Busenius

**1931**

\* Martha Matilda Beck

\* Elsa Alma Busenius

**1933**

\* Clarence Wilhelm Jait

\* Irmgard Ruth Birkholz

\* Arthur Birkholz

**1934**

\* Erwin Walter Birkholz

**1935**

\* Walter Leonard Platzke

\* Erwin Birkholz

\* Margarete Lora Birkholz

**1936**

\* Erna Else Milke

\* Edwin Julius Birkholz

**1937**

\* Erwin Julius Anders

\* Arthur Walter Milke

\* Adina Martha Hahn

**1938**

\* Karoline Erna Seidlitz

**1940**

\* Robert Bernhard Platzke

\* Margarete Rose Jait

\* Ruben August Seidlitz

\* Margarete Meta Rose Birkholz

\* Mary Milita Martha Birkholz

**1941**

\* Gustav George Adam

Edwin Irwin Seidlitz

Errol Blake Missal

Eleonore Alvina Busenius

Audrey Doreen Beck

**1942**

Norman Julius Birkholz

Gertrude Joanne Brese

William Barry Brese

Arnold Arthur Seidlitz

Joan Margaret Madu

Patricia Agnes Madu

Marilyn Jeanette Beck

**1943**

Irma Anna Birkholz

Evelyn Martha Felske

Carmi Ardith Missal

Jean Karen Hoffmann

Lillian Wanda Platzke

Ruth Jessie Madu

Dorothy Anne Stubelt

Louise Ruth Seidlitz

Lawrence Floyd Swonek

Donald Herbert Henning

**1944**

Doreen Margret Rinske

Erwin Otto Swonek

Lillian Lydia Birkholz

**1945**

Lorraine Ethel Anders

Alwin Komant

Stanley Emil Komant

Maxine Marylene McCay

+ Raymond Alfred Banick

**1946**

Helen Eileen Felske

Sharon Diana Swonek

+ Lawrence Hahn

Roelle Cherry Missal

Ronald Raymond Henry

+ David Clifford Banick

\* Eileen Birkholz

**1947**

Erich Milton Schilman

John Reganeld Markel

+ Calvin David Kadatz

**1948**

Judy Gale Swonek

Karen Donna McCay

Lyle Theodor Lueders

Ronald Ralph Lothamer

+ Gertrude Wilma Bittner

+ Glen Lawrence Ceretzke

\* Richard Dennis Beck

\* Judith Lorraine Brese

+ Larry Wayne Banick

**1949**

Delbert William Felske

David Elder Lentz

Judith Ruth Francis Hanneman

**1950**

Inez Mary Miller

Irene Mae Miller

+ Margeruite Ann Banick

Dennis Edwin Hahn

Robert George Robinson

+ Norman Bittner

Sherly Olive Madu

Shirley Ann Losing

Arleen June Markel

+ Anita Mary Hahn

Marreen Lorelei Missal

Marilyn Linda Martin

**1951**

+ Lorenz Erhard Habke

Darleen Elaine Domke

Laura Judith Hahn



**1952**

Max Theodor Lentz  
 Rita Marlic Birkholz  
 Judith Ann Schilman  
 Ruben Bienert  
 Glenn Gordon Bienert  
 Linda Pituskin  
 Kenneth John Penner  
 Jean Dianne Domke  
 Darcey George Adam  
 + Brien Dale Spitzer  
 Linda Dianne Klatt  
 Margarette Doberstein  
 Shirley Doreen Ceretzke

**1953**

Norman Leonard Swonek  
 Grant Campbell  
 Dennis Gustav Domke  
 Randall Clarence Hirsch  
 Johanna Linda Winarske  
 + Dianne Eileen Banick  
 Enid Mary Adam  
 Kurt Wilfred Hanneman

**1954**

Keith Wayne Felske  
 Malita Harriet Brudneski  
 Mark Elmer Fowler  
 + Barbara Louise Mohr

**1955**

Lana Darlene Adam  
 + Donna Gail Martin  
 + Larry Danny Teske  
 Daryl William Adam  
 Lenore Kathryn Lentz  
 Verna Lorna Felske  
 Patsy Coleen McCay  
 Lorrene Adina Hodikin

**1956**

Kenneth Arthur Swonek  
 + Linda Elaine Bittner  
 Joedy David Missal  
 Susan Christine Schaible  
 Rosanne Ellie Hirsch  
 + Garry Klause  
 Christine Knelken  
 Peter Knelken

**1957**

Connie Arlene Bienert  
 Shirley Ann Grakul

Lynette Marian Hanneman  
 Eileen Janice Domke  
 Karon Jean Schaible  
 Zen Arden Buss  
 Mary Anne Knelken

**1958**

Dwight Kenneth Adam  
 Kern Ivan Missal  
 Jane Erna Hodikin

**1959**

Harvey Robert Schaibel  
 Doreen Sharon Grams  
 Lorraine Marie Felske  
 Gary Arthur Adam  
 Phyllis Gehlert  
 Wayne Paul Felske  
 Glenda Hazel Buss

**1960**

Anita Marian Hodikin  
 Virri Lisa Missal

**1961**

Anna Gehlert  
 Carol Rosalie Domke  
 Brenda Lee Lueders  
 Kelvin George Hirsch  
 Dale Allen Adam

**1962**

Mary Ann Mohr  
 Elisabeth Ann Rose  
 Kenneth Eric Taylor  
 Donna Louise Busenius  
 Brian Robert Felske

**1963**

Barbara Jane Grakul  
 Kenneth Wayne Grakul  
 Susan Otti Eva Hoeckendorf  
 Gilbert Benjamin Ginther  
 Karen Leilan Domke  
 David John Rose  
 Colleen Lillian Taylor  
 Lois Shelly Felske

**1964**

Errin Bradly Felske  
 Reinhard William Ginther  
 Karen Edelgard Ginther  
 Dwayne Larry Adam  
 Jean Elizabeth Cote

Ronald Leslie Rose  
 Curtis Erwin Busenius  
 Randall Emil Jait

**1965**

Janet Loretta Grams  
 Karen Elsie Busenius  
 Wilfred Klaus Udo Horst Becker  
 Robert Dennis Frank  
 Richard Waren Busenius

**1966**

James William Laiss  
 Roy Erdman Busenius  
 Kenneth John Hauk  
 Lawrence Wally Busenius  
 Jo-Anne Rena Jait

**1967**

Brenda Lynn Haupt  
 Christine Edith Pretzlaff  
 Blain Ray Banick  
 Jordan Brennand Missal  
 Melvin Barry Felske  
 Lorne Arnold Adam  
 Kimberly Donne Lueders

**1968**

Debbie Jean Laiss  
 Wesley John Busenius

**1969**

Tammy Kaye Adam  
 Shane Alf Adam  
 Dennis Brent Busenius  
 Colleen Lorraine Domke  
 Duane Leonard Taylor  
 Robert Sean Robinson  
 Hillary Jeanne Robins

**1970**

Richard Steven Pretzlaff

**1971**

Grant Floyd Felske  
 Cheryl Tracy Adam  
 Denise Averl Kreamer  
 Tracy Lynn Parsons  
 Travis Robert Allen Parsons  
 Sandra Rose Busenius  
 Shannon Lea Steadman

**1973**

William Michael Birrell  
 Cami Lynn Kreamer  
 Amy Shauna Marie Pretzlaff

**1974**

Geneva Lin Robins  
Jeannette Eileen Pretzlaff  
Lynda Anne Pretzlaff  
Bradley William Lueders

**1975**

Kim Deanne Dunse

**1976**

Charleen LeeAnn Lorna Moeller  
Ronald Ernie Hauser  
Lisa Marlene Pretzlaff  
Christopher John Durant  
Kimberly Dawn Steadman

**1977**

Steven David Busenius  
Bradley Christopher James Moeller

**1979**

Jarrold Wayne Buskas  
Korey William Congdon  
Bryce Lyle Lueders

**1980**

Jocelyn Denise Read  
Chelsey Marie Pawluk  
Rachelle Lianne Buskas  
Ryan John Glen Neumann  
Joyce Monica Weimann  
Dennis Alfred Weimann  
Kelsey Caitlin Robins  
Lee James Ronald Usher

**1981**

Marie Colleen Rachel Yost  
Crystal Leigh Yost  
Rebecca Marilyn Yost  
Grant William Ingram  
Tracey Leanne Munk

**1982**

Deanna Christine Neumann  
Lana Mae Turner  
Jessica Marie Meyer  
Anita Marie Weimann

**1983**

Sharon Frances Mohr  
Kate Erin Frances Candy  
Cory Lee Kopen  
Ryan Walter Yost  
Daniel Gerald Yost

**1984**

Darren Robert Lind  
Gregory Keith Salomons  
Robert Brian Marler  
Craig Eric Marler  
Riley Dean Paysen  
Kylene Marie Missal  
Sean Matthew Kopen

**1985**

Christy Leanne Daubert  
Renee Christine Usher  
Vaughn Fraser Mickan



## CONFIRMATIONS:

\* Recorded at Trinity Lutheran Church, Edmonton  
+ Recorded at Zion Lutheran Church, Fultonvale

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <p><b>1926</b><br/>* Gustaf Klatt</p> <p><b>1930</b><br/>* Edmund Klatt</p> <p><b>1931</b><br/>* Albert Klatt<br/>* Gerhard Wilhelm Felske<br/>* Teresa Else Lueders</p> <p><b>1933</b><br/>* Helen Martha Lueders<br/>* Hildegard Hedwig Felske</p> <p><b>1936</b><br/>* Fredrich Wilhelm Lueders</p> <p><b>1938</b><br/>* Martha Otto<br/>Hilda Trawny<br/>Olga Beck<br/>Eric Walter Felske<br/>Heinz Adolf Otto Stucke<br/>Walter Robert Busenius</p> <p><b>1939</b><br/>Wanda Jait<br/>Rose Beck<br/>Wanda Beck<br/>Elly Stucke<br/>Lydia Stucke<br/>Paul Felske</p> <p><b>1942</b><br/>Wilhelm Adam<br/>Leon Adam<br/>Evelyn Anders<br/>Alice Beck<br/>Irene Helene Birkholz<br/>Emil Arnold Jait<br/>Erna Jait<br/>Anna Lueders<br/>Frieda Trawny<br/>Friedrich Wilhelm Klatt<br/>+ Audrey Dora Banick<br/>+ Arthur Neuman<br/>+ Alvin Neuman</p> | <p>+ Walter Spitzer<br/>+ Gustav Zilkke</p> <p><b>1943</b><br/>Francis Allen Raymond Klatt<br/>+ Lily Meze<br/>+ Clarence Hirsch<br/>+ Doris Hirsch</p> <p><b>1944</b><br/>Selma Erika Berndt<br/>Frieda Lotte Stucke<br/>Arthur Adam<br/>Alfred Gustav Beck<br/>Herbert Anders<br/>Clarence Arthur Busenius</p> <p><b>1945</b><br/>Erhardt Dietrich Hahn<br/>Erna Selma Hahn<br/>+ Rosie Neuman<br/>+ Dora Neuman<br/>+ Rosie Kublick<br/>+ Irene Spitzer</p> <p><b>1946</b><br/>+ Marion Ruth Buss<br/>+ Elsie Alma Busenius</p> <p><b>1947</b><br/>Milton George Swonek<br/>Clarence William Jait<br/>Arthur Birkholz<br/>Adolph Reinh. Adam<br/>Clara Trawny<br/>Elfrieda Adela Henshel<br/>Irmgard Ruth Birkholz</p> <p><b>1948</b><br/>Bobbie R. Walter<br/>+ Donald Cl. Spitzer<br/>+ Arden L. Buss</p> <p><b>1949</b><br/>Walter Leonard Platzke<br/>Erwin W. Birkholz<br/>Olga A. Adam<br/>Elsie Busenius<br/>+ Audry Beryl Kadatz</p> | <p>Dorothy Anne Stuebelt</p> <p><b>1950</b><br/>Margareta Lora Birkholz<br/>Robert Robinson<br/>Erwin J. Anders</p> <p><b>1951</b><br/>+ Gerald Lloyd Martin<br/>Leon Winarski<br/>Gordon Snider</p> <p><b>1952</b><br/>Erwin Busenius<br/>Erwin Haupt<br/>Erwin Gerhardt Berndt<br/>Caroline Erna Seidlitz<br/>Ruben Bienert<br/>+ Alvina Winarski<br/>+ Marlene Audrey Fetzer<br/>+ Ernest Bittner</p> <p><b>1953</b><br/>Enid Mary Adam</p> <p><b>1954</b><br/>* Margareta Meta Rose Birkholz<br/>Rubin August Seidlitz<br/>Erna Widmann<br/>Leonard Busenius<br/>Mary Milita Martha Birkholz<br/>Robert Benny Platzke<br/>+ Inga Maria Emma Meyer<br/>+ Ruth Evelyn Fetzer<br/>+ Ruth Martha Bittner<br/>+ Doris Elinor Fetzer</p> <p><b>1955</b><br/>Lawrence Floyd Swonek<br/>Gustav George Adam<br/>Grant Campbell<br/>Errol Blake Missal<br/>Julius Norman Birkholz<br/>Rena Widmann<br/>Audrey Doreen Beck<br/>Eleonore Alvina Busenius<br/>Edwin Erwin Seidlitz<br/>+ Ronald Alexander Zeisman</p> |
|---|---|--|

**1956**

Heather Lorraine Spooner  
 Gail Sharon Spooner  
 Erna Haupt  
 Margaret Schaffrick  
 Ida Busenius  
 Arnold Arthur Seidlitz  
 + Oskar Pretzlaff  
 + Ernest Gunther Mohr

**1958**

Evelyn Martha Felske  
 + Heinrich Pretzlaff

**1957**

Marilyn Jeanette Beck  
 Irma Drews  
 Carmi Ardith Missal  
 Alma Busenius  
 Lillian Wanda Platzke  
 Louise Ruth Seidlitz  
 Lillian Lydia Birkholz  
 Garry Ross Bienert  
 Erwin Otto Swonek  
 + Ronald Glen Martin  
 + Raymond Alfred Banick

**1960**

Gloria Mary Lueders  
 Roelle Cherry Missal  
 Maxine Marilyn McCay  
 Elke Beisner  
 Margaret Busenius  
 Helen Eileen Felske  
 David Clifford Banick  
 Eileen Birkholz  
 Brian Orville Courtney Spooner

**1961**

Erika Haupt  
 Gertrude Milita Busenius  
 Linda Grace Pituskin  
 Lyle Theodore Lueders  
 Walter Doberstein  
 Erwin Hodikin  
 Gordon Kenneth McEwan  
 Larry Wayne Banick  
 Richard Dennis Beck

**1962**

Karl Heinz Mohr  
 Karen Donna McCay  
 Delbert William Felske  
 Erich Milton Schilman

**1964**

Carlyle Richard McCay  
 Margeruite Ann Banick  
 Gisella Doberstein  
 Lidia Hodikin  
 Marreen Lorelei Missal

**1966**

Darleen Elaine Domke  
 Alan George Fingler  
 Janet Bunny McCay  
 Judith Ann Schilman  
 Jean Dianne Domke  
 Linda Dianne Klatt  
 Margarete Doberstein  
 Shirley Doreen Ceretzke

**1967**

Elizabeth Gloria Zilinski  
 Richard Patric Paul Hanneman  
 Norman Leonard Swonek  
 Kurt Wilfred Hanneman  
 Randall Clarence Hirsch  
 Dennis Gustav Domke  
 Anita Doreen McCay  
 Dianne Eileen Banick  
 Debbie Ann Fingler

**1968**

George Friedrich  
 Ralph Alfred Koch

**1969**

Kenneth Arthur Swonek  
 Ralph Richard Schmidt  
 Keith Wayne Felske  
 Terry Kosack  
 Lilly Ileene Kosack  
 Patsy Colleen McCay  
 Lana Darlene Adam  
 Wilfred Friedrich  
 Joedy David Missal  
 David Garth Kadatz  
 Gordon Harvey Grams  
 Verna Lorna Felske  
 Rosanne Ellie Hirsch  
 Ursula Elisabeth Schmidt  
 Eileen Janice Domke

**1970**

Lynette Marian Hanneman  
 Garry Klauser

**1971**

Doreen Sharon Grams  
 Regina Erna Fuchs  
 Edith W. Eggert  
 Wendy Lee Parsons  
 Cynthia Gayle Parsons  
 Rita Helga Koch  
 Roberta Faith Parsons  
 Kern Ivan Missal  
 Kenneth Clarence Busenius  
 Rudolph Karl Schmidt  
 Irene Loretta Kosack

**1972**

Lorraine Marie Felske  
 Wayne Paul Felske  
 Harvey John Schmidt  
 Harry Friedrich

**1973**

Gary Adam  
 William Birrell  
 Percy Roth

**1974****1976**

Donna Louise Busenius  
 Elizabeth Ann Rose

**1975**

Allan Dean Birkholz  
 Terry Neil Birkholz  
 Diane Gloria Busenius  
 Joan Mary Busenius  
 Carol Rosalee Domke  
 Kelvin George Hirsch  
 Brenda Lee Lueders  
 Virri Lisa Missal  
 Brian Robert Felske  
 Gary Heinz Frank

**1977**

Ernest Erwin Eggert  
 David John Rose  
 Karen Leilan Domke  
 Lois Shelly Felske

**1978**

Joyce Ludie Schoepp  
 Karen Elsie Busenius  
 Curtis Erwin Busenius  
 Errin Bradley Felske  
 Ronald Leslie Rose



1979

James William Laiss  
Randall Emil Jait  
Jo-Anne Rena Jait  
Janet Loretta Grams  
Robert Dennis Frank  
Richard Warren Busenius

1981

Debbie Jean Laiss  
Melvin Barry Felske  
Wesley John Busenius  
Kimberly Donne Lueders  
Colin William Allan Candy

1984

Sandra Rose Busenius  
Brian Robert Marler  
Kevin Dean Dunse  
Richard Oskar Steven Pretzlaff  
Donald Richard Riep  
Grant Floyd Felske  
Lori-ann Carla Unterschultz  
Tracy Diane Riep  
Carole Margaret Catherine Candy

1980

Roy Erdman Busenius  
Tammy Dianna Stein  
Terry Olinda Stein  
Trevor Lee Clipperton  
Linda Doris Thiede  
Lawrence Walter Busenius  
Grant Kenneth Cammidge

1982

Dennis Brent Busenius  
Troy Blaine Clipperton  
Colleen Lorraine Domke  
Darlene Margaret Schoepp  
James Edmund Thiede

1983

Sharon Frances Mohr



1942 - Back Row L-R: Emil Jait, Anne Lueders, William Adam, Freda Trawny, Leon Adam Front Row: Irene Birkholz, Erna Jait, Pastor G. Weise, Alice Beck, Evelyn Anders



1944 Back: Arthur Adam, Herbert Anders, Alfred Beck, Clarence Busenius, Seated: Frieda Lotte Stucke, Pastor Luetkeholter, Selma Berndt.



1943 \*Clarence Hirsch, Frank Klatt \*Lillian Meyer, Pastor G. Weise, \*Doris Hirsch



1947 - Back: Adolph Adam, Milton Swonek, Ruth Birkholz, Clarence Jait, Arthur Birkholz Seated: Elfrieda Henschel, Pastor P. Hanneman, Clara Trawny Note: This is Pastor P. Hanneman's first confirmation class in St. John's Lutheran Church (Ardrossan)



1949 - Erwin Birkholz, Audrey Kadatz, Walter Platzke Seated: Olga Adam, Pastor P. Hanneman, Elsie Busenius



1951 - Zion Lutheran Church - Leon Winarski, Gerald Martin, Gorden Snider, Pastor Hanneman



1950 - Laura Margaret Birkholz, Pastor Hanneman, Dorothy Stubbelt



1952 - Zion Lutheran Church - Marlene Fetzer, Ernest Bittner, Alvira Winarski Seated: Pastor P. Hanneman



1950 - Erwin Anders, Pastor P. Hanneman, Robert Robinson



1952 Back: Erwin Busenius, Erwin Haupt, Erwin Berndt Front: Pastor P. Hanneman, Caroline Seidlitz





1954 - Zion Lutheran Church - Back: Inga Meyer, Ruth Bittner Front: Doris Fetzer, Pastor Hanneman, Ruth Fetzer



1956 - Ida Busenius, Erna Haupt, Gail Spooner, Arnold Seidlitz, Lorraine Spooner, Margaret Schoffrick and Pastor Hanneman



1954 - Back: Leonard Busenius, Robert Platzke, Reubern Seidlitz, Front: Erna Widman, Mary Birkholz, Pastor Hanneman, Margaret Birkholz



1956 - Zion Lutheran Church Ernie Mohr, Pastor P. Hanneman, Oskar Pretzlaff



1955 - Back: Errol Missal, Grant Campbell, Edwin Seidlitz, Lawrence Swonek, Norman Birkholz, Gustav Adam Front: Audrey Beck, Pastor Hanneman, Eleanor Busenius, Rena Widman Missing: Ronald Zeiman from Zion



1957 - Back: Garry Bienert, Carmi Missal, Marilyn Beck, Lillian Platke, Irving Swonek Front: Alma Busenius, Louise Seidlitz, Pastor Hanneman, Irma Drews, Lillian Birkholz Missing: Ronald Martin from Zion



1958 - Heinrich Pretzlaff, Pastor Hanneman, Evelyn Felske, Raymond Banick



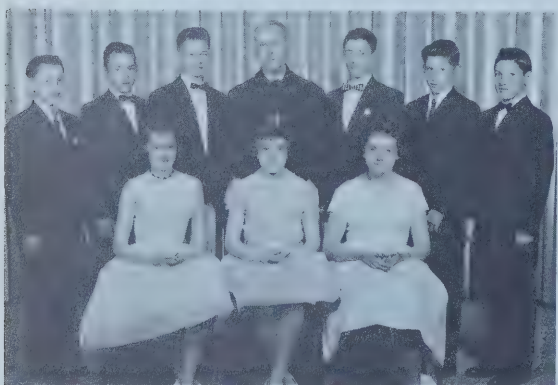
1962 - Karl Mohr, Delbert Felske, Pastor Hanneman, Karen McCay



1960 - Back: David Banick, Margaret, Busenius, Maxine McCay, Pastor Hanneman, Eileen Birkholz, Brian Spooner Front: Gloria Lueders, Helen Felske, Roelle Missal



1962 Eric Schilman



1961 Back: Walter Doberstein, Richard Beck, Erwin Hodikin, Pastor P. Hanneman, Gordon McEwan, Lyle Lueders, Larry Banick Front: Gertrude Busenius, Linda Pituskin, Erika Haupt



1964 - Maureen Missal, Lydia Hodikin, Carlyle Richard McCay, Pastor Hanneman, Margeruite Banick, Gisella Doberstein Note: The first confirmation class in the new church.





1966 - Back: Jean Domke, Alan Fingler, Margarete Doberstein, Darlene Domke Front: Linda Klatt, Shirley Ceretzke, Pastor Hanneman, Judith Schilman, Janet McCay



August 1969 - Keith Felske, Kenneth Swonek, Terry Kosak, Ralph Schmidt, Pastor Hanneman, Lilian Kosak, Patsy McCay, Lana Adam



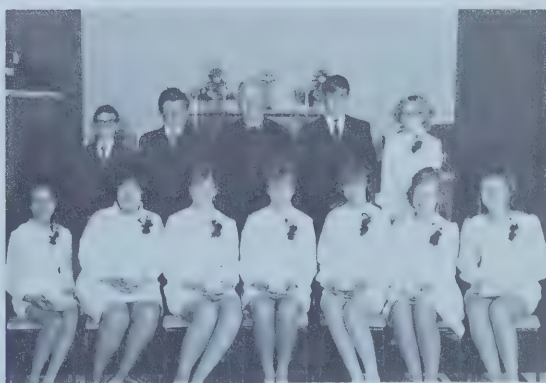
1967 - Back - Kurt Hanneman, Debbie Fingler, Anita McCay, Dianne Banick, Dennis Domke, Randall Hirsch, Richard Hanneman, Norman Swonek, Pastor P. Hanneman



1970 - Lynette Hanneman, Pastor Hanneman, Gary Klause



November 1969 - Joedy Missal, David Kadatz, Gordon Grams, Wilfred Friedrich, Pastor Hanneman, Rosanne Hirsch, Ursula Schmidt, Eileen Domke, Verna Felske.



1971 - Back: Ken Busenius, Kern Missal, Pastor P. Hanneman, Rudolph Schmidt, Rita Koch Front: Irene Kosak, Wendy Parsons, Cynthia Parsons, Roberta Parsons, Doreen Grams, Edith Eggert, Regina Fuchs



1972 - Wayne Felske, Harry Friedrich, Pastor P. Hanneman, Lorraine Felske, Harvey Schmidt



1976 - Donna Busenius, Elizabeth Rose, Pastor A. Querengesser, Gary Frank, Brian Felske



1973: Percy Roth and Bill Birrell confirmed by Father-in-law Ewald Kublik at St. John's



1977: Lois Felske, Ernest Eggert, Pastor Querengesser, Karen Domke, David Rose



1975 - Pastor O. Goos, Allan Birkholz, Terry Birkholz, Kelvin Hirsch Front: Brenda Lueders, Verri Missal, Carol Domke, Joan Busenius, Diane Busenius.



1978 - Errin Felske, Ronald Rose, Karen Busenius, Curtis Busenius, Joyce Schoepp, Pastor A. Querengesser





1979 - Richard Busenius, Robert Frank, Jo-Anne Jait, Pastor Roy Pudrycki, Janet Grams, Randall Jait, James Laiss



1982 - Dennis Busenius, Colleen Domke, Pastor R. Pudrycki, Troy Clipperton, Darlene Schoepp, James Thiede



1980 - Back: Lawrence Busenius, Terry Stein, Pastor Roy Pudrycki, Tammy Stein, Grant Cammidge  
Front: Trevor Clipperton, Linda Thiede, Roy Busenius



1983 Sharon Mohr, Pastor R. Pudrycki



1981 - Melvin Felske, Debbie Laiss, Colin Candy, Pastor R. Pudrycki, Kimberly Lueders, Wesley Busenius



1984 - Back: Lori Unterschultz, Brian Marler, Pastor R. Pudrycki, Richard Pretzlaff, Sandra Busenius.  
Front: Donald Riep, Carole Candy, Kevin Dunse, Tracey Riep, Grant Felske.

## WEDDINGS

\* Recorded at Trinity Lutheran Church, Edmonton  
+ Recorded at Zion, Lutheran Church, Fultonvale

**1929**

\* Anna Louise Lueders/  
Wilhelm Busenius

**1931**

\* Maria Rosa Lueders/  
Gus Kneller

**1932**

\* Gus Birkholz/  
Frieda Felske

**1942**

Leroy Earl Kropinske/  
Tresses Miranda Gosling  
Siegmond Schilman/  
Irma Eleonore Berndt (1)

**1943**

Gerhard William Felske/  
Martha Otto  
+ Lenard Martin/  
Florence Emma Spitzer  
+ Herman Martin/  
Hildegarte Zilkie

**1944**

Herman Herkules Hahn/  
Helene Emilie Berndt

(1) First marriage in St John's

**1945**

+ Robert Schsuerman/  
Gertrud Neuman

**1946**

\* Irene Helene Birkholz/  
Clem Nickel

**1947**

Robert Oliver Dixon/  
Kathleen June Goslin  
Clarence Wilfred Kartz/  
Lotte Frieda Stucke

**1948**

Elder Theodore Lentz/  
Gertrude Mary Hanneman  
Clarence Hirsch/  
Elly Helena Herlanda Stucke  
Leo Norman Mohr/  
Freda Trawny  
Ewald Ferko/  
Erna Jait

**1949**

Adolf Hahn/  
Selma Erica Berndt

**1950**

Gustav Domke/  
Clara Trawny

**1951**

Alexander Herman Popke/  
Eugene Drews  
William Adam/  
Enid Mary Rowe  
Edmund Brudneski/  
Natalie Loeske  
Arthur Adam/  
Hildegarte Radke

**1952**

+ Wilfred Hanneman/  
Marian Buss  
Heinz Kuerbis/  
Ruth Irmgard Birkholz

**1953**

Fred Broderick/  
Anna Radke  
Eric Walter Felske/  
Olga Augusta Adam

**1955**

Harry Grakul/  
Evelyn Viet Coté  
Ronald Kenneth Thornton/  
Mae Rudy Schulz

Robert Schaible/  
Elsie Busenius

**1956**

Edward Schiewe/  
Elsie Alma Busenius

**1957**

Clarence Authur Busenius/  
Mary Betty Laiss  
Arthur Adam/  
Erna Widmann

**1958**

Paul Richard Felske/  
Doris Alma Margaret Adolf  
Edward Teske/  
Martha Hein

**1959**

Ernest Adalbert Heppner/  
Margarete Meta Rose Birkholz  
Robert Benny Platzke/  
Pamala Rose McLeod

**1960**

Mike Pasut/  
Olga Nass  
Lorne Barager/  
Inga Maria Emma Meyer

**1961**

Johann Rose/  
Eleanore Alvina Busenius  
Alfred Herbert Otto Hoeckendorf/  
Erna Elsie Meisl

**1961**

Erich Michael Taylor/  
Lillian Wanda Platzke

**1962**

Emil Arnold Jait/  
Rena Widmann  
William Ertman Laiss/



- Lillian Lydia Birkholz  
Ron Leslie Batho/  
Audrey B. Baxter  
Benjamin Bernard Ginther/  
Edelgard Charlotte Gnoza
- 1963**  
Lawrence William Heppner/  
Mary Milita Martha Birkholz  
Adolf Lester Quinn/  
Doreen Dorothy Haliva (Pasut)  
Dean McFarlen/  
Maxine Marilyn McCay
- 1964**  
Erwin Busenius/  
Winnifred Jean Friesen
- 1965**  
Curtis Blain Smith/  
June Viola Schulz  
John Hauk/  
Margaret Busenius
- 1966**  
Wesley Ralph Kreamer/  
Gloria Mary Lueders  
Raymond Alfred Banick  
Elizabeth Gloria Zilinske  
Oskar Pretzlaff/  
Eileen Birkholz  
Erwin Haupt/  
Elsie Anna Pristouski  
Harvey Dennis Howell/  
Helen Eileen Felske  
Adolf Adam/  
Lillian Marie Gagne  
Eberhard Mueller/  
Angelika Siglinde Storch
- 1967**  
Gussie George Adam/  
Faye Susan Mouldiny  
Einar Keith Linquist/  
Evelyn Martha Felske  
Merle Coté/  
Elisabeth Hough  
Albert Simon/  
Erika Haupt
- 1968**  
Leighton Myles Klatt/  
Roelle Cherry Missal  
Donald Earl Robins/  
Carmi Ardith Missal
- 1969**  
Gordon Kenneth McEwan/  
Marilyn Ann Sanders  
William Alfred Mark/  
Shirley Jean Yantke  
Peter Franz Harms/  
Margarete Schley  
Patrick Bruce Nixon/  
Margarete Doberstein  
Gordon Dwight Steadman/  
Margeruite Ann Banick
- 1970**  
David Elder Lentz/  
Linda Rose Perdue
- 1971**  
Heinrich Pretzlaff/  
Leona Ryll
- 1973**  
Randall Clarence Hirsch/  
Siegliende Lorraine Ickert
- 1974**  
Wolfgang Aloysius Moeller/  
Verna Lorna Felske  
Dale Clair Marson/  
Deborah Ann Fingler  
Norman Leonard Swonek/  
Ellen Janice Walker
- 1976**  
Frank Peter Thede/  
Rosanne Ellie Hirsch
- 1977**  
David Grahame Turner/  
Eileen Janice Domke  
Rodney Wayne Oliver/  
Laura-lee Brennan
- 1980**  
James Henry Bachman/  
Ursula Elizabeth Schmidt
- Jan Arnold Mol/  
Cindy Rae Alton
- 1981**  
David Roger Baran/  
Jean Dianne Domke  
Kern Ivan Missal/  
Deborah Lynn Marusiak
- 1982**  
Johnny Michael Marusiak/  
Virri Lisa Missal  
Bren Taylor Alton/  
Brenda Lee Lueders  
Brian William Mnoholitny/  
Adele Jacomine Mol
- 1983**  
Ricky Paul Hammer/  
Diane Gloria Busenius  
John Curtis Robin Waters/  
Bernice Eileen Birkholz  
Gary Arthur Adam/  
Joan Mary Busenius  
Larry Joseph Semen/  
Lorraine Marie Felske  
Grant Murray McKinney/  
Meridith Lynn Sexton  
Gene Erhard Alfred Koesling/  
Carmen Faye Bartlett
- 1984**  
Kelvin George Hirsch/  
Mary Elizabeth Drinkwater  
Ferdinand Fredrick LeBlanc/  
Doreen Sharon Grams
- 1985**  
Randall Emil Jait/  
Lisa Irmgard Lohse

## FUNERALS

\* Recorded at Trinity Lutheran Church, Edmonton

+ Recorded at Zion Lutheran Church, Fultonvale

**1930**

- \* Amelia Jantz
- \* Hulda Klatt

**1931**

- \* Martha Beck

**1933**

- \* Gustav Beck

**1935**

- \* Juliana Busenius

**1936**

- \* Erwin Birkholz
- Nicklaus Busenius
- \* Edwin Julius Birkholz
- \* Julius Hein

**1937**

- \* Otto Frederick Theodore Lueders

**1938**

- \* Erna Felske
- \* Gottlieb Bahr

**1939**

- \* Baby Seidlitz
- \* Baby Anders
- \* Edmund Klatt

**1940**

Roy Albert Schulz

**1943**

Irma Anna Birkholz

**1944**

Leokadia Jait

**1945**

- + Ludwig Kublik

**1948**

- + Calvin D. Kadatz
- Emil Jait Sr.

**1952**

- Gottfried Berndt
- + Theodore Banick

**1953**

Paulina Weikam Beck

**1954**

Frederick Klatt

**1955**

Adolf Fr. Werner  
Adolf Adam

**1956**

Hildegard Adam

**1957**

Baby Girl Domke

**1958**

- + Paulina Fandrich

**1961**

Anna Lueders  
Jennie Coté  
Albert Henry Schulz

**1962**

Baby Renatta Jait

**1963**

- Ida Kluge
- + Bertha Banick

**1964**

Emil Coté  
Harry Allen Schulz  
Frieda Schulz

**1965**

Harvey Coté

**1966**

Theodore Lueders  
Julius Kluge

**1971**

Robert Renas

**1973**

Augusta Adam

**1974**

Leonard Platzke

**1976**

Gustav Adam  
Otilie Busenius  
Heinrich Stucke

**1977**

Gerhard William Felske  
Louise Klatt  
Christina Felske  
Friedrich William Klause

**1978**

Adolf Haupt  
Gottlieb Buss

**1979**

Albertina Pretzlaff  
Julianna Pretzlaff

**1981**

Reinhold Busenius  
Ida Krueger  
Wilhelm Edward Felske

**1982**

Daniel Werner  
Edwin Herbert Stanley Klatt

**1983**

Julia Renas

**1984**

August Seidlitz

**1985**

Selma Busenius  
Elfriede Ernestine Hoeckendorf  
Augusta Berndt  
Johanna Klause



## THE COUNCIL: ST. JOHN'S

### Councillers

Julius Anders	1935-1944	Julius Birkholz	1960-1961
Wilhelm Felske	1935-1938	Adalbert Missal	1960-1964
Adolf Milke	1935-1940	Eric Felske	1962-1965
Heinrich Stucke	1941-1944	Paul Grams	1962-1963
Gustav Trawny	1938-1939	John Rose	1963-1964
Julius Birkholz	1939-1942	Julius Pretzlaff	1963-1966
August Seidlitz	1939-1942	Bill Laiss	1963-1966
Gustav Adam	1942-1945	Paul Felske	1964-1967
Julius Birkholz	1942-1944	Emil Doberstein	1964-1967
Robert Renas	1944-1946	Alfred Banick	1964-1967
Heinrich Stucke	1944-1947	Clarence Hirsch	1965-1968
Julius Anders	1944-1947	Bill Laiss	1966-1969
Gerhardt Felske	1946-1949	Julius Pretzlaff	1967-1970
Gustav Adam	1946-1949	Daniel Pretzlaff	1967-1970
Adalbert Missal	1946-1949	Paul Felske	1968-1971
Julius Anders	1947-1948	Clarence Busenius	1968-1971
Wilhelm Busenius	1948-1951	Arthur Fingler	1968-1971
Julius Anders	1948-1949	Leonard Friedrich	1969-1972
Adalbert Missal	1949-1952	Erwin Eggert	1970-1973
Julius Anders	1949-1950	Daniel Pretzlaff	1970-1973
Julius Birkholz	1950-1953	Oskar Pretzlaff	1971-1972
Leonard Swonek	1950-1953	Clarence Busenius	1971-1974
Siegmund Schilman	1951-1952	Arthur Fingler	1971-1974
Gerhard Felske	1951-1954	Bill Laiss	1972-1975
Adalbert Missal	1952-1955	Julius Birkholz	1973-1976
Siegmund Schilman	1952-1953	Erwin Eggert	1973-1976
Leonard Swonek	1953-1956	Arthur Fingler	1974-1977
Seigmund Schilman	1953-1954	Alfred Banick	1974-1977
Leonard Platzke	1954-1957	John Rose	1974-1977
Julius Birkholz	1954-1955	Eric Felske	1975-1978
Adalbert Missal	1955-1958	Wally Busenius	1976-1979
Leonard Swonek	1956-1959	Fred Lueders	1976-1979
Eric Felske	1956-1959	Arthur Fingler	1977-1980
Ewald Widmann	1957-1960	Alfred Banick	1977-1980
Adalbert Missal	1958-1961	Reinhard Dunse	1977-1980
Julius Birkholz	1958-1959	John Rose	1977-1980
Leonard Swonek	1959-1962	Arthur Fingler	1978-1981

### COUNCIL: ZION, FULTONVALE

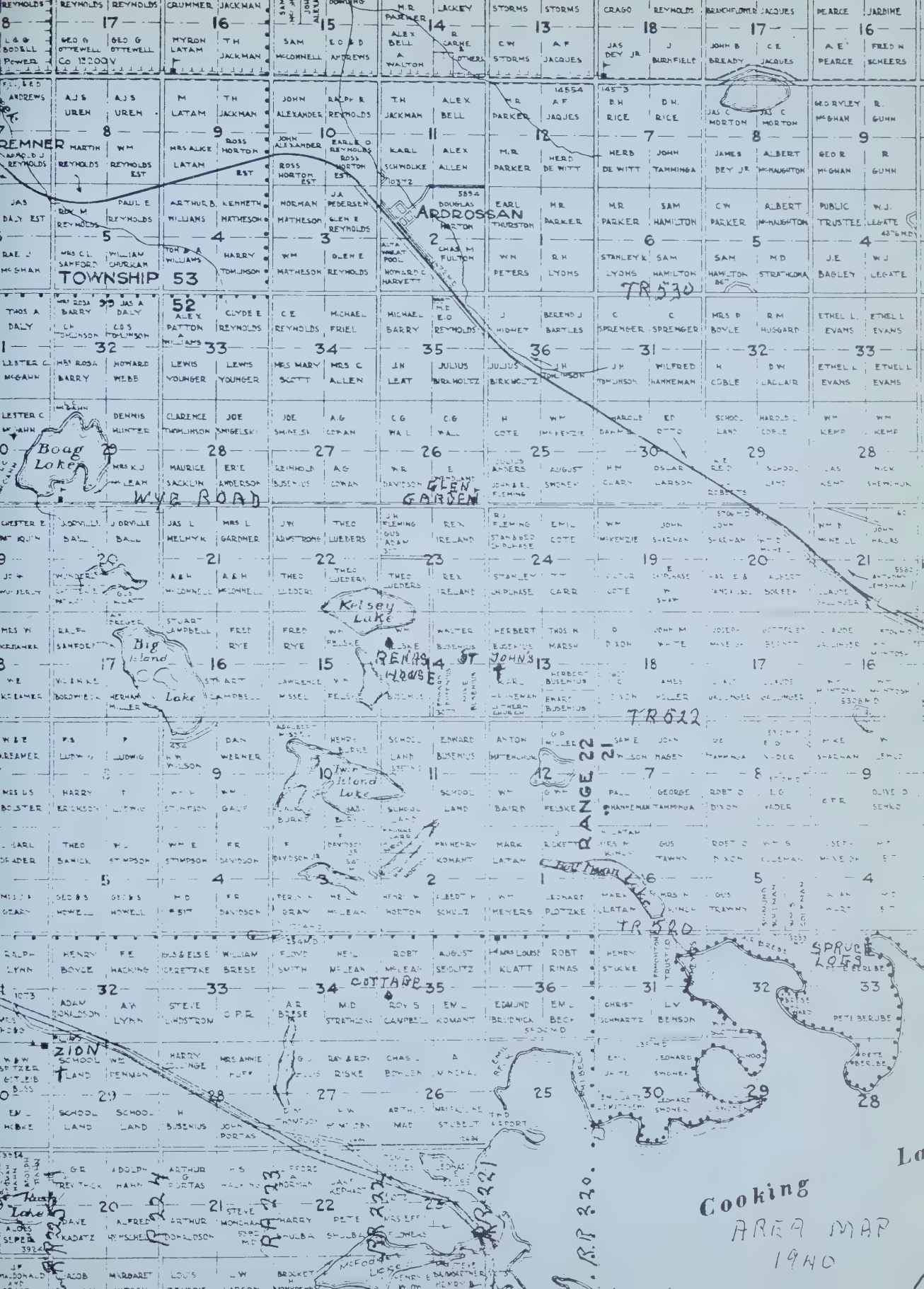
Gustav Lindner	1941	Julius Birkholz	1978-1981
Julius Hahn		Fred Lueders	1979-1982
Alfred Banick		Erwin Eggert	1979-1982
Gustav Hirsch	1942	Reinhard Dunse	1980-1981
Herman Martin		Georg Stein	1980-1983
Alfred Banick		Bill Laiss	1980-1983
Gustav Hirsch	1944	Ken Unterschultz	1981-1984
Herman Martin		Julius Birkholz	1981-1984
Alfred Banick		Rena Jait	1981-1984
Alfred Banick		Alfred Weiman	1982-1985
Alfred Banick	1947-1954	Harry Friedrich	1982-1985
Emile Habke	1955	Bill Laiss	1983-1986
William Bittner		Dianne Dunse	1983-1986
Julius Pretzlaff		Edmund Thiede	1983-1985
Alfred Banick		Alfred Banick	1984-
William Bittner	1959	Ken Unterschultz	1984-1985
Julius Pretzlaff		Eric Felske	1985-
Alfred Banick		Clarence Busenius	1985-
		Gary Adam	1985-

*Amalgamation - April 22, 1960*

Alfred Banick	1960-1963
---------------	-----------







Cooking  
AREA MAP  
1940

1914



## MEMBERSHIP LIST: December 31, 1985

### *\* Associates or Friends*

ADAM: Gary & Joan  
\*ASBJORNSEN: Steiner & Gunde; Steemarto, Sera-Marie  
BANICK: Alfred & Eileen  
BECK: Elsie  
BERNDT: Erwin  
\*BERTON: Bill & Melita; Naomi, Tammy  
BIRKHOLZ: Gus & Frieda  
BIRKHOLZ: Julius & Lydia  
BIRRELL: Bill & Marty; Billy  
\*BROSDA: John & Carmen; Ryan, Kirstan  
BUSENIUS: Clarence & Mary; Ken, Roy  
BUSENIUS: Donna  
BUSENIUS: Erwin & Winnifred; Curtis, Richard, Dennis, Steven  
BUSENIUS: Wally & Lydia; Karen, Lawrence, Wesley, Sandra  
BUSENIUS, William & Louise  
BUSKAS: Arnold & Patricia; Jarrod, Rachelle  
BUSS: Anna  
CANDY: Allan & Sharon; Colin, Carole, Kelly, Kate  
CLIPPERTON: Don & Karen; Trevor, Troy  
DAUBERT: Richard & Denise; Thomas, Christy  
DOMKE: Gus & Clara; Colleen  
DUNSE: Reinhardt, & Dianne; Kevin, Kim  
EGGERT: Edith  
EGGERT: Erwin & Selma; Ernest  
\*EWEN: Lorne & Jessie  
FELSKE: Eric & Olga; Errin  
FELSKE: Paul & Doris; Brian, Melvin, Grant  
FELSKE: Wayne  
FELSKE: Martha; Lois  
FINGLER: Art & Rose; Alan  
FRIEDRICH: Leo & Eva  
FRIEDRICH: Wilfred, Harry  
GRAMS: Paul & Hilda; Janet  
HAUPT: Marta  
HIRSCH: Clarence & Elly  
JAIT: Emil & Rena; Jo-Anne  
JAIT: Randy & \*Lisa  
KLAUSE: Garry  
\*KJOSNESS: Ken & Marianne; Shannon, Shawn  
KOPEN: \*Earl, & \*Donna; Cory, Sean  
KUBLIK: Elsie  
KUHN: John & Margaret; Ron  
LAISS: Willie & Lillian; James, Debbie  
LEBLANC: \*Fred & Dorreen  
LIND: Edward & Barbara; Elaine, Lori, Neal, Darren  
LUEDERS: Fred & Vera  
LUEDERS: Lyle & Jane; Kim, Bradley, Bryce  
MARLER: \*Robert & \*Chris; Brian, Craig  
MISSAL: Adalbert & Eleonore; Errol, Joedy  
MOHR: Sharon  
NEUMANN: John & Monica; Ryan, Deanna  
PLATZKE: Wanda  
PRETZLAFF: Heinrich & Leona; Amy, Lisa  
PRETZLAFF: Julius  
PRETZLAFF: Oskar & Eileen; Richard, Jeannette  
PUDRYCKI: Roy  
\*RANGER: Hubert & Maria; Ilona  
READ: Dennis & Joyce, Nicole, Kimberly, Jocelyn  
ROSE: John & Eleanor; David, Ron  
ROSE: Elizabeth  
SCHILMAN: Siegmund & Irma  
SCHMIDT: Richard & Ira  
SCHOEPP: Ed & Ludie; Joyce, Darlene  
\*SPOONER: Orville & Irma  
STEIN: George & Anna; Tammy, Terry  
STUCKE: Natalie  
SWONEK: Len & Elsie  
THIEDE: Ed & Ida; Debbie, Linda, James  
USHER: \*Ron & Elaine; Jacqueline, Lee, Renee  
WEIMAN: Alfred & Margrit; Jennifer, Joyce, Dennis, Anita



*1985 Council*

*Back Left: Gary Adam, Alfred Banick, Clarence Busenius and Pastor Pudrycki Front: Eric Felske, Dianne Dunse and Bill Laiss.*



*Edith Eggert  
Treasurer*



*Marty Birrell  
Typist*



*Typists: Rena Jait, Leona Pretzlaff, Lois Felske, Joan Adam, Winnie Busenius*





*Christmas 1985*



*1979 - Senior Citizens*



*1980 Vacation Bible School*



*1981 St. John's 45th Anniversary*



*March 1981 Pastor's Conference at St. John's*



*Sept. 12, 1982 from Left: George Friedrich and Randall Hirsch at the ordination of George Friedrich, at Hope Lutheran Church, Calgary.*



*Palm Sunday*





*May 22, 1982 Homecoming.*



*1985 - Council preparing breakfast Easter Sunday*



*1985 - Council preparing breakfast Easter Sunday.*



*Nov. 1985 Pumpkin Carving Contest.*





*Oct. 10, 1982 Pastor Roy Pudrycki on Thanksgiving.*



*Front: Editor Adalbert Missal and wife, Eleonore*



*History Committee*

*Back Left: Adalbert Missal (Chairman), Clara Domke, Henry Pretzlaff, Alfred Banick, Pastor Roy Pudrycki, Elly Hirsch Seated: Louise Busenius, Julius Birkholz, Mary Busenius (Secretary Treasurer)*



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